



# MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

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## INSIDE APRIL'S ISSUE

### TRIBAL - SECTION A



Chief Ellis

Inside Section A of *The Muscogee Nation News*: A Office of the Principal Chief p. 2; Healthy Heart Project for citizens with diabetes p. 5; Tribes protecting tribes p. 6; and Higher Education Program Information p. 8.

### FEATURES - SECTION B



Tournament

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### SCENE - SECTION C



La Margarita

Section C of *The Muscogee Nation News*: First Americans in the Arts announces honors in television, film, and music p. 1; Creek Council House Indian Art Festival p. 2; Creek Nation Tulsa and Okmulgee Gaming Promotions p. 3; and Food Review.

### CREEK FESTIVAL ENTERTAINMENT

The 32nd Annual Creek Festival entertainment will begin on Friday, June 16 at 6:30 p.m. to midnight. Saturday, June 17, beginning at 6:30 p.m. to midnight. Headlining Friday night will be Lou Gramm and Foreigner. Ricky Van Shelton will be headlining Saturday night's entertainment. Other acts, as well as all festival events, will be listed in May's Creek Festival Preview.

## National Council helps tribal citizens with educational assistance

by CARLA BROWN

MNN Reporter

HENRYETTA — Author Norma H. Hill once said, "Sometimes adversity impels a person to greater heights, and sometimes it provides the opportunity for that person to be a blessing in the lives of others." For those that know Muscogee (Creek) citizen Alleena Harley, she is that person.

Before a crowd of 175 people, Alleena was recently awarded a four-year, full tuition scholarship to Bacone College. Gracious as always, she never said a word but the tears running down her cheek said a lot.

"I've never seen her cry before," said Phil Booker, her summer league softball coach and close family friend. "She got hurt once playing softball in Sapulpa when she was about 12. She broke two bones in her ankle while sliding into second. She never shed one tear. It must have meant a lot for her to cry today. My wife and I cried too!"

Harley, along with four other Creek citizens, benefitted from tribal legislation, NCA 06-007, that appropriated funding to 4 Love of the Game, a nonprofit organization that builds character in Native American youth through sports.

"My peers and I supported this legislation because it helps with their self-esteem," said Robert "Bill" Jones, Okmulgee District Representative. "We must be competitive and continue to learn because life is hard. We need to help provide our Native American youth with education to succeed. It is my honor to help preserve the future of our Native American youth."



Dr. Joe Cole, Bacone College Dean of Athletics, left, presents Alleena Harley, Creek citizen and Okmulgee High School academic standout, with a four year, full-tuition scholarship to Bacone College.

photo by Ruth Bible

4 Love of the Game awarded 10 scholarships to the following: Alleena Harley, Bacone College; Caylen Ahtone, Haskell Indian Nations University; Misty Haley, \$1,000; Darren Rock, \$1,000; Izzy Walker, \$500; Allie Dreadfulwater, \$500; Luke Coffey, \$500; Desiree Booker, \$500; Natasha Solomon, Muscogee Red Stick Society; Bobby Lewis, MNBE; and Joe Roberts, MNBE.

The scholarships were awarded at a formal awards banquet on Sunday, March 19, 2006.

"It was a good feeling to see the pride and enthusiasm of the kids during the tournament and awards banquet," said Jones.

For more information about 4 Love of the Game, visit their website at: [www.4loveofthegame.org](http://www.4loveofthegame.org).

## Creek Festival seeks nominees for Living Legends ceremony

OKMULGEE — The 32nd Annual Creek Festival is seeking nominees for the Living Legends ceremony that will honor four tribal citizens who have devoted many years to the betterment of the Creek citizens.

"It went great last year," said Principal Chief A.D. Ellis. "We just want to honor great people from our tribe that have done great things. A lot of citizens have done great things and never have received recognition. This is an opportunity to honor them while their living."

Four individuals will be selected by a committee from nominations sent to the Office of the Principal Chief. The committee will consist of the Principal Chief A.D. Ellis, Second Chief Alfred Berryhill, Speaker of the National Council George Tiger, all Creek Nation directors, and the executive director. All committee members must be enrolled

Creek citizens.

"It was a great compliment," said Rev. Harry Long, 2005 honoree. "It felt good to know that I was selected by my people. I know there were many others that could have been selected. It was an honor."

Nominees must meet the following qualifications: must be a Creek citizen; must be at least 55 years of age; and must have devoted many years to the betterment of the Creek people or Creek Nation government in areas such as art, crafts, politics, education, and ceremonial/religious leaders.

The committee will select four individuals from submitted nominees and honor them during Chief Ellis's evening address on Saturday, June 17.

All nominees must be submitted to the Office of the Principal Chief at: P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK 74447. Deadline: May 25, 2006.



### CONTACT COORDINATOR FOR EACH EVENT June 9 & 10th

Miss Mvskoke & Jr. & Miss Mvskoke Pageants - Virginia Thomas 732-7939

Slowpitch Softball - Mallory Bible (918) 732-7639

### June 15th

Stomp Dance - David Proctor - (918) 756-8504

### June 16th

Youth Olympics - Tanya Bardin & Don Edwards (918) 732-7869

### June 16th - 18th

Parade - Irene Culley (918) 756-9911, Ext. 334

Fastpitch Softball (Men & Women) - Dean Williams (918) 732-7790

Volleyball - Christine Denny (918) 296-3331

Basketball (Youth & Adult) - Craig Mosquito - (918) 756-6473

Horseshoes - Larry Soweka (918) 756-8504

Pow-wow - Dr. Cosar (918) 732-7727

Rodeo - Bob Arrington (918) 732-7650

Arts & Crafts - Melinda Taylor (918) 732-7727

Gospel Singing - Geebon Gouge (918) 732-7711

Creek Hymn Singing - Michael Deere

Senior Activities - Donna Martin (918) 732-7962

Golf Tournament - Bert Robinson (918) 689-2547

5-K Run - Lila Garrett (918) 732-7869

Art Contest/Fashion Show - Ted Isham (918) 756-2324

Musical Entertainment - Tulsa Casino & Salina Dornan (918) 732-7613

Vendors (Food) - Melissa Ambler (918) 732-7935



Chief A.D. Ellis presents Hepsey Gilroy with a Living Legends plaque.



Office of the Principal Chief

by Chief A.D. Ellis

Yesterday, April 5, was a happy day for myself and all Creek Citizens. The Oklahoma House of Representatives voted unanimously to remove the State of Oklahoma from all Creek Housing programs. Two weeks before, the State Senate voted 49 to 0 also in our favor. Three years ago, I started the process with a state representative to do just this. The first 2 years the bill was



killed at committee level. This year with much work and lobbying. I believe in 2 weeks we will probably assume all assets of the Creek Housing Authority of Oklahoma.

This will be an additional \$43 million dollars worth of money and assets to serve our citizens. We will be the first Tribe in Oklahoma to do this, or maybe anywhere.

There is so much growth going on in our Nation today that it is very hard to focus on any certain project. The fantastic Koweta Health Complex. We are hoping to start on another new health clinic this summer in Eufaula. Maybe even one in Okmulgee. If we can possibly put a financial package together to build 2 clinics, this should make the creek people very happy.

I’ve got to state that this is a project that takes a concerted effort between the National Council and the administration. Working together we have fourteen projects under construction or planned for this summer. Complete financing for our now Tulsa Casino was approved last week by the National Council.

On a more personal note, I was invited last week by a religious group from Texas to an all expense paid trip to Turkey this June.

They want the Turkish people to learn about American Indians and how we have survived and thrived in America for 100’s of years.

This is odd because they have survived for 1,000’s of years before the birth of Christ.

Another invitation is for all of our creek people to take time to view our newly decorated complex lobby and hall of honor with displays. See portraits of all National Council members and later this year see the beautiful flowering tree’s that now surround the tribal capital. We have a tribal landscaper who is working to build flowers beds and make this complex a place to be proud of. Our new basketball gym is in the planning stages and don’t forget our 33rd Annual Creek nation Festival at the omniplex, in June of this year.

Quote - “A women was filling her gas tank at the travel plaza while smoking and her arm caught on fire. She was immediately arrested by the Lighthorse police for carrying a fire-arm. Ouch!”

February District Court filings

- Civil:**
- Security Finance v. Terry Cook Small Claims
  - Security Finance v. Lachelle Stroble Small Claims
  - Christopher Lee No Ear, Sr. v. Holly Arizola Petition
  - In Re: Callie Martinez Petition
  - Royal Finance v. Kathy Taylor Small Claims
  - Linda Davis v. Creek Nation Bingo Petition
  - Money Services, Inc. v. Julia Jessie Foreign Judgment
- Criminal Felonies:**
- MCN v. Brittany Taylor Ct. Possession of illegal drugs
- Criminal Misdemeanor:**
- MCN v. Shawn Collins Ct. 1 Disorderly conduct
  - MCN v. Lewis Jacobs Ct. 1 Disorderly conduct
  - MCN v. Zack Pickering Ct. 1 Public Intoxication
- Divorce:**
- LeAnn Cherry v. Tristan Cherry Petition for Dissolution of Marriage
  - Shawna Tiger v. Joseph Tiger Petition for Divorce
  - Shawn Haney v. Jeanetta Haney Petition and Automatic Temporary Injunction Notice
  - Reta Winn v. Terro Winn Petition for Dissolution of Marriage
- Family Domestic:**
- TCSS, Ex. Rel. Kimberly Hill v. Elliotte Birdcreek
  - TCSS, Ex. Rel. Jenna Leitka v. Steve Marshall
- Marriage License:**
- James Harper and Catherine Roza
- Protective Orders:**
- Sandra Chen; Coty Bacon; & Tylan Bacon v. Anthony (Tony) Butler Ex-Parte
  - Brenda Goodvoice v. Bobby Marshall Ex-Parte
- Traffic:**
- MCN v. William Alexander Disorderly Conduct
  - MCN v. William Alexander

- Disorderly Conduct
- MCN v. Randy Jacobs No Insurance
  - MCN v. Donnie Miles Possession of Alcohol
  - MCN v. Benjamin NJorge Driving Under Suspension
  - MCN v. Benjamin NJorge Expired Tag
  - MCN v. Sheila Andrews-Miller Disorderly Conduct
  - MCN v. Toni Ann Nisbet Possession of illegal Drugs
  - MCN v. Jerry Culifer Possession of illegal Drugs
  - MCN v. Joel Gonzalez Requirement of Safety Belt
  - MCN v. Joel Gonzalez No Insurance
  - MCN v. Sheila Corley No Valid Drivers License
  - MCN v. Sheila Corley Expired Tag
  - MCN v. Sheila Corley No Valid Insurance
  - MCN v. Christina Crowley Expired Tag
  - MCN v. Christina Crowley No Insurance
  - MCN v. Jarrod Parker Expired Tag
  - MCN v. Dale Garrigues No Insurance
  - MCN v. Mary Ann Gramm Possession of illegal Drugs
  - MCN v. Bobby Marris Trespassing
  - MCN v. Aaron Replogle Possession of alcohol on Tribal Land
  - MCN v. Felicia Whittaker Disorderly Conduct
  - MCN v. Bennie Herrell, Jr. Expired Tag
  - MCN v. Bennie Herrell, Jr. Driving Under Suspension
  - MCN v. Kenneth Newcomer Driving Under Suspension
  - MCN v. Anthony Barnes No Drivers License
  - MCN v. Anthony Barnes No Insurance

March District Court filings

- Civil:**
- MCN v. Sean McKinzie Petition
  - Jeana Bales v. Nathan Froehlich Petition to Establish Paternity
  - Saber Acceptance Co. Inc., v. Natalie Bucktro and Billy Wilson Foreign Judgment
  - Royal Finance v. Stanley Birdcreek Small Claims
  - MCN v. 1994 Honda Accord VIN #1HBCB7146MA002452 Notice of Seizure and Intended Forfeiture
  - OK Financial Services, Inc. v. Carol Humble Small Claims
  - Laura Ann Keele v. Donald Lee Keele Jr. & Darren Haught Petition to Establish Paternity
  - Roy H. Baxter Jr., v. Creek Nation Casino, Tulsa Petition
- Criminal Felonies:**
- MCN v. Roy Wilson Ct. 1: Possession of Illegal Drugs
  - MCN v. Stevie Parris Ct. 1: Possession of Illegal Drugs
  - MCN v. Stevie Parris Ct. 2: Possession of Illegal Drug Paraphernalia

Legal Notices

SERVICE OF SUMMONS BY PUBLICATIONS NOTICE

Muscogee (Creek) Nation To: Terro Mark Winn

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for divorce in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, Case No D 2006-07, styled In re the Marriage of Reta Kay Winn, Petitioner and Terro Mark Winn, Respondent. The action alleges that the Petitioner is entitled to a *Decree of Divorce* from you based on the ground of incompatibility.

You are notified that you must answer the Petition filed by the *Petitioner* on or before the day of **April 30, 2006**, or the allegations contained in the Petition will be taken

as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of Petitioner as prayed for in her *Petition*.

Given under my hand and seal this 28th day of March, 2006.

Nancy Jukich, Court Clerk  
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, Okmulgee District  
by: Marva Proctor, Deputy

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Deadline for submissions to be considered for inclusion in the next edition is the **third Friday of the previous month**. **The Muscogee Nation News** reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style, and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate **The Muscogee Nation News** in any regard.

**The Muscogee Nation News** is mailed Standard Class A from Okmulgee, Oklahoma to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to the tribal communications department. Please include your tribal enrollment number with all correspondence.

TO CHANGE OR SUBMIT AN ADDRESS, CALL (918) 732-7637 or send e-mail to: [wmurphy@muscogeenation-nsn.gov](mailto:wmurphy@muscogeenation-nsn.gov).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor:

I would like to thank Brad Fox and the Force Account of Creek Nation housing for coming out on such short notice to fix my busted water line. Special thanks to Clint Hammontree and Stanley McIntosh also a thank you to Christie Jameison. A good job by lots of nice people, that don’t get enough recognition. MTVO!

**Barney Ingram, Okmulgee**

Editor:

The New Tradition Clinic staff would like to thank the film crew of the Creek Nation Communications Department for the wonderful job they did on our commercial. We were really impressed with their professional work

**Mariah Lee & The New Tradition Clinic Staff, Tulsa**

Editor:

The weekend of March 11, Tulsa Creek Indian Community had some unexpected guests. Dennis Banks Sacred Runners came through Tulsa and spent the weekend at our center. They are a group of individuals, native and non native who are helping various tribes pre-

serve their tribal grave sites. It was a hectic weekend but I want to thank the following individuals and groups who helped provide food and entertainment for them.

Leona Fish, Mary Arkeketa, Jane Carnell, Dorothea Berno, Senora Manley, Pat and Earl Kelly, Archie and Ramona Mason, Glenpool Indian Community, Jerri McClellan, Joyce Noon, Chris Hill, Muscogee Nation Stomp dancers and the Cherokee Nation stomp dancers, Barbara Shoemake, Anita Anquoe, Polly Drywater, Cherie Hancy, Julian B, Jimmie and Susie Deere.

Our citizens did a great job in providing a warm welcome and showing our Muscogee Nation hospitality. Thank You!

**Carol Morris, TCIC Chairperson**

Editor:

I’m a Creek citizen and a worker for the Lord, I do not live amongst my people. I never really understood why I ended up where I am now, but I see now after visits in Creek Nation why?

I know the Lord’s return is soon, because of the way things are in our Indian churches. It breaks my heart to hear the things that are going on. I once heard, the Indians are “God’s Chosen People”. I’m

not quite believing that, because now days you hear of ministers in our Indian churches approving of each others adulteress relationships, of fights happening inside the House of God, of office holders stealing from the church, and of women trying to tell the (supposedly) men of the church what to do. Ministers stick together whether they are right or wrong. They should be the ones trying to straighten things out instead, they are the main contributors, the reason being they don’t want the other ministers bringing out or preaching about what sins they are committing.

No one person here on this earth is perfect, we all agree but have we not heard of the Ten Commandments, have we not heard of the two greatest commandments? Ministers say they are preaching “hard messages” and that they are going to step on some toes, but watch out! Since we all know about the Two Great Commandments are about Love, wouldn’t you think these ministers, that say they are preaching “hard messages” would preach about love (Which as you can tell, is the hardest thing Indians, in general, can do. Too much jealousy, too much pride, too much hatred.). All too often a minister wants to get behind a pulpit and hammer a fellow Chris-

tian in the ground, and that’s supposed to be a hard message (hard as a hammers head). In this day in time, one needs to hear encouragement. About how to love one another. We need to hear soul winning sermons.

They try to say that churches need their rules, yes they do but if you’re going to adhere to some and break others what good do you think that is? Our elders fasted and prayed, to get our church rules, those rules were made to keep some kind of order in the church, but when the problem is at the top, those rules are being broken by those at the top, but yet the rest of the congregation is supposed to adhere to them.

Don’t think that if we can’t love one another and work with one another here on this earth, do you think we are going to have a chance to in Heaven? NOT! Is it any wonder, why we can’t win more souls to the Lord. After all, that is one of our duties as a Christian. We are to be Fishers of Men. We too often lose our testimony by not living our lives as a Christian the way we are supposed too. It saddens my heart to wake up to reality. Pray for our Indian people.

**Lesley Ann Chitwood, Nowata**



From the desk of the Speaker:

Hensci! Last month I mentioned in this column about Oklahoma State Senate Bill No. 1706, a bill that would allow for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation to assume the liabilities of the state agency housing authority. Through co-operative lobbying efforts of both the executive and legislative branches of our Nation this bill was passed unanimously in committee of the Oklahoma House of Representatives. Now it goes to full legislature for vote.

On April 8, the National Council of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation along with the Cherokee and Osage Nation legislatures will co-host Tribal Summit II in Oklahoma City. The first Summit was held in December to discuss tobacco compacts between the state and tribes. At the conclusion of the Summit the consensus of the legislatures of the tribes was to continue to work in a cooperative effort to address issues of interest and concerns. Tribal Summit II will offer topics such as economic impact of tribes in Oklahoma, Native American Caucus of the Oklahoma State Legislature and Water Rights. In addition, recruiting, training and funding of American Indian candidates, a session with political candidates for state offices in Oklahoma and Native Vote campaign efforts for the upcoming political season. It will be a comprehensive and informative Summit that is open to all tribes and their elected leaders in Oklahoma.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation served as host for a number of important events during the month of March beginning with the Oklahoma Indian Child Care Association meeting on March 7. On March 8 and 9 the Indian Child Care Administrators training was held at the Housing Division offices with more than fourteen tribes represented.

The Annual “Doing Business in Indian Country” symposium was held on March 8 – 10 at OSU–Okmulgee. Hosted by the Judicial branch of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation this annual event is very informative in educating prospective entrepreneurs about doing business with tribes. A list of impressive and outstanding presenters makes this an outstanding educational conference for everyone.

Third Annual All–Indian March Madness was held March 15 – 19 in Henryetta. If you’ve never attended this event you should make a point to put it on your calendar for next year. For four days, high school Indian athletes from across the country gather to enjoy fellowship and competition on and off the court. Very important facets of the events are the scholarships awarded at the banquet held to end this great event. The tribe financially contributes to this annual event and I feel is a wonderful investment for future leaders.

On March 18, the Community Research and Development Division hosted a number of our chartered communities. The purpose of the meeting was to provide workshops that would assist the communities with various policies and procedures in finance and parliamentary law. I was honored to give the welcome address for the workshop. Our communities are a very important resource of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

The National Forest Service and Muscogee (Creek) Nation hosted the Fifth Annual “To Bridge A Gap” conference on March 22 – 24 at the Green Country Technology Center in Okmulgee. The conference is designed to strengthen government to government relationships between the USDA and tribal governments. Strong indications are the conference was a tremendous success. The keynote speaker was John Beaver with the National Museum of the American Indian. He is the son of Pete Beaver, Muskogee District Representative to the National Council.

The successes of these events exemplify what can be achieved by working together. The journey continues in the efforts of the National Council to work in harmony for the benefit of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

Until next time, *MVTO!*



# Muscogee National Council overview

OKMULGEE — The following consists of actions of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council conducted at the January 28, 2006, Quarterly Session.

## January 28, Quarterly session

Absent was: **Tom Pickering**, McIntosh District;

Principal Chief, **A.D. Ellis** presented his State of the Nation address;

representative **Pickering**, McIntosh District arrived during the approval of minutes;

Speaker **George Tiger**, Creek District, conducted the meeting and did not vote.

### IN ORDER OF BUSINESS:

- APPROVED (25-0-0) TR 06-004, CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF **MONTY BUNNY** TO THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION CITIZENSHIP AND REPEALING TR 05-020 - Sponsor: **Anthony Notaro**;

- APPROVED AS AMENDED (25-0-0) TR 06-008, CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF **JOANN DEERE** TO THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION CITIZENSHIP BOARD - Sponsor: **Pete Beaver**;

- APPROVED (25-0-0) TR 06-009, AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE GREAT SEAL OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION ON MATERIALS PROMOTING THE **ALLIE REYNOLDS** GOLF TOURNAMENT - Sponsor: **Sam Alexander**;

- APPROVED (25-0-0) TR 06-011, A TRIBAL RESOLUTION OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF **BRANTR BEAVER** TO SERVE ON THE GAMING OPERATIONS AUTHORITY BOARD - Sponsor: **Cherrah Ridge-Quiett**; Co-Sponsor: **James Jennings**;

- APPROVED AS AMENDED (25-0-0) TR 06-012, CONFIRMING THE RE-NOMINATION OF **PATRICK E. MOORE** AS THE DISTRICT COURT JUDGE OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION - Sponsor: **Cherrah Ridge-Quiett**; Co-Sponsor(s): **A. Notaro**; **J. Fife**;

- APPROVED (25-0-0) NCA 06-002, AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL APPROPRIATION TO THE MOUND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE MOUND AUDITORIUM AUDIO SYSTEM - Sponsor: **Anthony Notaro** (\$170,346.00);

- APPROVED (25-0-0) NCA 06-003, AMENDING MCNCA TITLE 24, §7-307.A.2. TO ALLOW FOR MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION VETERANS TO RECEIVE A DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS’ AFFAIRS GUARANTY LOAN - Sponsor: **Robert Jones**; Co-Sponsor(s): **A. Notaro**; **K. Johnson**;

- APPROVED (25-0-0) NCA 06-005, AUTHORIZING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION TO THE LEGAL SERVICES COURTS COSTS & PUBLICATION FEE REVOLVING FUND - Sponsor: **Anthony Notaro** (\$4,954.17);

- APPROVED AS AMENDED (25-0-0) NCA 06-007, AMENDING NCA 05-191 (A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL APPROPRIATION TO THE “FOR THE LOVE OF THE GAME” ORGANIZATION FOR FALL ACTIVITIES AND FOR THE 2006 ALL INDIAN MARCH MADNESS TOURNAMENT) - Sponsor: **Anthony Notaro** (\$50,000.00);

- APPROVED (25-0-0) NCA 06-008, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION TO THE CITIZENSHIP OFFICE FISCAL YEAR 2006 BUDGET - Sponsor: **Robert Jones** (\$130,828.00).

## February 9, Emergency session

Representatives excused were: **Keeper Johnson** and **Tom Pickering**;

Absent were: **Duke Harjo**, Creek; **Tom Pickering**, McIntosh; **Thomas McIntosh**, McIntosh; and **Jeff Fife**, Okmulgee;

Speaker **George Tiger**, Creek District, conducted the meeting and did not vote.

### IN ORDER OF BUSINESS:

NEVADA GOLD AND HOBBS, STRAUS, DEAN & WALKER - INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY.

## February 25, Regular session

Speaker **George Tiger**, Creek District, conducted the meeting and did not vote.

### IN ORDER OF BUSINESS:

- APPROVED (25-0-0) TR 06-003, AUTHORIZING THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF ON BEHALF OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION HEALTH SYSTEM TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH GUARDIAN SECURITY SYSTEMS, INC. TO INSTALL AND MONITOR A SECURITY ALARM SYSTEM AT THE KOWETA INDIAN HEALTH FACILITY - Sponsor: **Richard Berryhill**;

- APPROVED (25-0-0) TR 06-005, AUTHORIZING THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF TO EXECUTE A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY, THE GEORGIA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER, AND IN CONSULTATION WITH THE FEDERALLY-RECOGNIZED INDIAN TRIBES AND WITH THE CONCURRENCE OF THE UNDERSIGNED TRIBES AND THE NATIONAL INFANTRY FOUNDATION REGARDING A NEW NATIONAL INFANTRY MUSEUM AT FORT BENNING/COLUMBUS, GEORGIA - Sponsor: **Cherrah Ridge-Quiett**;

- APPROVED (25-0-0) TR 06-013, AUTHORIZING THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF TO EXECUTE SALES AGREEMENTS WITH WILLIAMS SCOTSMAN, INC. TO PURCHASE MODULAR BUILDINGS FOR THE EUFAULA CASINO EXPANSION PROJECT - Sponsor: **Tom Pickering**;

- APPROVED (25-0-0) TR 06-015, A TRIBAL RESOLUTION OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF TO EXECUTE A PITNEY BOWES RENTAL AGREEMENT FOR A MAIL METER MACHINE TO BE UTILIZED BY GSA - Sponsor: **Shirlene Ade**;

- APPROVED (25-0-0) TR 06-018, AUTHORIZING THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF TO EXECUTE SERVICE LINE AGREEMENTS WITH UTILITY COMPANIES TO DEVELOP THE NATION’S PROPERTY LOCATED IN TULSA, OKLAHOMA - Sponsor: **Sam Alexander**;

- RETURN TO COMMITTEE (25-0-0) TR 06-019 AUTHORIZING THE GAMING OPERATIONS AUTHORITY BOARD TO HIRE LEGAL COUNSEL TO DEFEND A LAWSUIT - Sponsor: **Sam Alexander**;

- POSTPONED (25-0-0) TR 06-023, AMENDING TR 04-142 (A TRIBAL RESOLUTION OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION CREATING AND AUTHORIZING THE NEGOTIATING TEAM ON TOBACCO COMPACT ISSUES WITH THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA) TO REFLECT THE CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE TOBACCO NEGOTIATING TEAM - Sponsor: **George Tiger**;

- RETURN TO COMMITTEE (25-0-0) TR 06-024, APPROVING A LEASE TO 81 RIVERSIDE, INC. TO ALLOW 81 RIVERSIDE, INC. TO OPERATE THE FULL MOON CAFE AT THE CREEK NATION CASINO - Sponsor: **Ron Cleghorn**;

- APPROVED AS AMENDED (25-0-0) TR 06-025, APPROVING THE INTEGRATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT - Sponsor: **Robert LaGrone**;

- APPROVED (25-0-0) NCA 06-006, AMENDING NCA 05-236 (A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF TO EXPEND \$2.7 MILLION EQUIPMENT FUNDS FROM THE INDIAN HEALTH SERVICES IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE LOAN PROCEEDS OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION FOR COMPLETION OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE KOWETA INDIAN HEALTH CLINIC) TO AUTHORIZE THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF TO EXPEND INTEREST MONIES ACCUMULATED FROM IHS EQUIPMENT FUND ON THE KOWETA CLINIC PROJECT - Sponsor: **Richard Berryhill**; Co-Sponsor(s): **Johnnie Greene**;

- APPROVED (25-0-0) NCA 06-009, AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL APPROPRIATION FOR THE SPRING CELEBRATION SPONSORED BY THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION PARTNERSHIP BOARD - Sponsor: **Shirlene Ade** (\$10,000.00);

- APPROVED (25-0-0) NCA 06-010, APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO THE DIVISION OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS TO RECLAIM AND CLARIFY SURFACE AND MINERAL RIGHTS OF PROPERTIES ORIGINALLY USED FOR RAILROAD, STREET AND UTILITY RIGHTS-OF-WAY AND OTHER MUSCOGEE NATION PROPERTIES - Sponsor: **Robert Jones** (\$20,000.00);

- APPROVED (13-12-0) NCA 06-011, AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL APPROPRIATION OF THE

RELIEF AND ASSISTANCE OF AN ENROLLED MUSCOGEE (CREEK) CITIZEN AND MILITARY VETERAN - Sponsor: **Shirlene Ade** (\$3,069.71);

VOTING NO WAS: **HARJO**, CREEK;

**McINTOSH**, McIntosh; **WIND**, OKFUSKEE; **B. FIFE**, OKFUSKEE; **J. FIFE**, OKMULGEE; **JENNINGS**, OKMULGEE; **BIBLE**, TULSA; **QUIETT**, TULSA; **CLEGHORN**, TULSA; **WILLITS**, TULSA; **BERRYHILL**, WAGONER; **GREENE**, WAGONER;

- APPROVED (25-0-0) NCA 06-012, AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL APPROPRIATION TO STIDHAM SCHOOL BAND FOR ASSISTANCE IN PURCHASING BAND UNIFORMS FOR MARCHING AND STAGE PERFORMANCES - Sponsor: **Anthony Notaro** (\$3,500.00);

- APPROVED (24-1-0) NCA 06-013, APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION DIVISION OF HEALTH CONTRACT HEALTH PROGRAM - Sponsor: **Tom Pickering** (\$500,000.00);

VOTING NO WAS: **K. JOHNSON**, OKMULGEE;

- APPROVED AS AMENDED (25-0-0) NCA 06-014, APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE MULTIPURPOSE BUILDING LOCATED AT THE CLAUDE COX OMNIPLEX - Sponsor: **Roger Barnett** (\$1,500,000.00);

- APPROVED (25-0-0) NCA 06-017, AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL APPROPRIATION TO THE TWIN HILLS VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF A FIRE TRUCK - Sponsor: **Keeper Johnson** (\$31,900.00);

- APPROVED AS AMENDED (25-0-0) NCA 06-019, AUTHORIZING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION TO THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH FISCAL YEAR 2006 BUDGET - Sponsor: **Roger Barnett** (\$511,397.00);

- APPROVED (22-3-0) NCA 06-020, APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW VETERANS BUILDING - Sponsor: **Anthony Notaro** (\$748,980.00);

VOTING NO WAS: **McINTOSH**, McIntosh; **B. FIFE**, OKFUSKEE; AND **J. FIFE**, OKMULGEE;

- APPROVED (25-0-0) NCA 06-021, AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL APPROPRIATION TO SUPPORT THREE (3) POLITICAL CANDIDATES WHO WILL ADVOCATE FOR THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION IN THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA POLITICAL ARENA - Sponsor: **Ron Cleghorn** (\$15,000.00);

- APPROVED (24-1-0) NCA 06-022, AMENDING MCNCA TITLE 21, §4-103, A., ENTITLED “Membership and Appointment” - Sponsor: **Keeper Johnson**;

VOTING NO WAS: **JENNINGS**, OKMULGEE;

- APPROVED (25-0-0) NCA 06-023, AMENDING MCNCA TITLE 21, §5-125, ENTITLED “Receiving items of value” - Sponsor: **Ron Cleghorn**; Co-Sponsor(s): **A. Notaro**; **S. Alexander**

- APPROVED (24-1-0) NCA 06-024, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION REVISING THE 2004 INDIAN HOUSING PLAN AS APPROVED BY NCA 04-070, AND PROVIDING FOR THE EXPENDITURE OF \$750,000 IN FUNDS ALLOCATED FROM THE HOUSING AUTHORITY - Sponsor: **Eddie LaGrone**;

VOTING NO WAS: **J. FIFE**, OKMULGEE;

- KILLED ON THE FLOOR (25-0-0) NCA 06-028, AUTHORIZING THE OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF TO NEGOTIATE WITH **MARCELLA GILES** AND **WYNEMA CAPPS** FOR THE POSSIBLE LEASE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR RESTRICTED PROPERTY - Sponsor: **Sam Alexander**.

## March 14, Special session

Representatives excused are: **Larry Bible** and **Cherrah Quiett**.

Absent were: **K. Johnson**, Okmulgee; **Ade**, Tukvptce; **Bible**, Tulsa; **Quiett**, Tulsa;

Speaker **George Tiger**, Creek District, conducted the meeting and did not vote.

### IN ORDER OF BUSINESS:

- APPROVED (21-0-0) NCA 06-038, AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL APPROPRIATION TO HOST THE FIFTH ANNUAL “TO BRIDGE THE GAP” CONFERENCE - Sponsor: **Johnnie Greene** (\$15,728.00)

EXECUTIVE SESSION – TOBACCO ISSUES

REPRESENTATIVES **JOHNSON** AND **ADE** ARRIVED DURING EXECUTIVE SESSION.

## NEWS IN INDIAN COUNTRY

*Submitted by Rita Williams, Legislative Liason*

Tribal leaders question meaningful consultation and the failing federal budget process. In February, tribal leaders gathered for sessions of the BIA National Budget meeting in Washington D.C. President Bush proposed a \$65 million cut in Indian Tribal programs for fiscal year 2007.

Many Tribal Leaders voiced their concerns of tribal budget cuts to their programs and what this means to the services of their people. Tribal leaders became upset when Interior Associate Deputy Secretary James Carson and Office of Special Trustee head Ross Swimmer left the long-scheduled meeting to go to other appointments and did not return. Tribal leaders interpreted their departure as an intentional snub, saying the meeting had been scheduled far in advance and they traveled great distances to attend.

Chickasaw Nation Lt. Gov. Jefferson Keel, NCAI area representative from Oklahoma mentioned, “That by the time the Chickasaw Nation has trained staff using federal dollars the program they work for is cut.”

Among the programs slated for elimination

and reductions are: The Federal Johnson O’Malley Program, School construction cut under \$50 million, Elementary, secondary and post-secondary education faces proposed reductions amounting to \$16.3 million, while the Office of Indian Education Programs was increased \$9.1 million for administrative restructuring. Tribal welfare assistance faces an \$11 million reduction. The Indian Child Welfare Act was reduced by \$742,000. Community and economic development faces a \$12.6 million reduction.

Tribal leaders are left questioning the Executive Order 13175 - Consultation and Coordination

With Indian Tribal Governments which states; By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and in order to establish regular and meaningful consultation and collaboration with tribal officials in the development of Federal policies that have tribal implications, to strengthen the United States government-to-government relationships with Indian tribes, and to reduce the imposition of unfunded mandates upon Indian tribes; Most tribes are echoing the same sentiment, “Where are the meaningful consultations, where is the govern-

ment to government?”

In a meeting held at Mystic Lake Casino in Prior Lake, MN, tribal leaders from across the nation expressed strong opposition to legislation introduced by Senator John McCain to amend the 1988 Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA), and agreed to send a letter notifying McCain that they would not support the bill. McCain is chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. The meeting marked the first time that tribal leaders have come together to develop a position on McCain’s bill, S. 2078. It was convened by the National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA) and the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), which have held a series of meetings with tribal leaders to develop consensus positions on legislation affecting Indian gaming.

Ernie Stevens, the chairman of NIGA, said the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988 doesn’t need to be amended. He called S.2078, the bill introduced by McCain last November, “a disappointing reminder that some people think we’ve gained too much ground, under IGRA in its current form, Indian gaming has done exactly what Congress intended it to do.”



MNBE donates to March Madness  
HENRYETTA — Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise donated two \$250 Scholarships to the 4 Love of the Game, March Madness tournament. “MNBE is thrilled to be able to donate scholarships to help our Indian youth,” said Michael Nalley, Director of MNBE. “MNBE Technology Manager, BJ Waggnor, is one of the founding members of the games and we applaud him, Lucas Taylor and the other members for donating their time for a very worthy cause. We fully support their efforts,” added Nalley.

MNBE Riverside Indian school project update  
ANADARKO — Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise’s \$4.2 million contract with the Bureau of Indian Affairs to build a new kitchen and dining hall at Riverside Indian School is under way and on schedule. Site work has started and footings are being poured.

MNBE construction highway projects  
TULSA — MNBE Construction Services has started the ODOT Fiber project located at the intersection of Highway 169 and Highway 44. Work is underway at a Bridge Project in Bixby and at Dirt Butter Creek Bridge in Tulsa, Oklahoma.  
MNBE’s project with FPM for new consoles in Building 240, Flight Management Operations Center at Tinker AFB was completed in March two weeks ahead of schedule.  
MNBE is starting a new bay flooring project April 10<sup>th</sup> for BWXT Pantex

in Amarillo, TX. Pantex is a high security facility where nuclear weapons are assembled and disassembled. MNBE has already completed six bays with a total of ten being planned. Another project at BWXT Pantex to install security cages and related work is being completed on April 7.  
MNBE technology service update  
NEWKIRK — MNBE Technology Services Division was recently awarded an additional contract with the Kaw Nation Casino to install all of the fiber and data.  
According to BJ Waggnor, Manager, “We are now handling all of their surveillance, data, fiber and card access. We appreciate the confidence the Kaw Nation has in our group and I want to thank our guys for a doing a great job.”  
Writer and consultant services available  
OKLAHOMA CITY — Claudette Robertson is available as a writer, editor, and/or consultant for ministry, business, historical organizations, and nonprofit programs.  
She has a master in Social Sciences from Humbolt State University in northern California with an emphasis in American Indian History. During her time at Humbolt she developed her own masters program which included going out and teaching history at the college of the Red Woods.  
She has since worked for the Hoopa Valley Tribe writing grants for HUD, Social Services, and several other departments. She is also one of the three founders, and worked as the administra-

tor of, the Muscogee Language Institute along with George Bunny and Ted Isham.  
She now lives in Oklahoma City, attends Oklahoma State University and is working on her doctorate in history and teaches at Oklahoma City Community College.  
She has been writing grants since 1986. Robertson can be contacted at (405) 773-1384 or (405)-826-2424.  
Muscogee Document Imaging  
OKMULGEE — The Muscogee Document Imaging Company is a division of the Trade and Commerce Authority of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.  
Their mission is to provide secure storage and high quality visibility of documents and records through scanning and imaging allows companies to save time and space by having documents accessible through the internet or warehouse. Environmentally safe destruction of documents & records are provided.  
The Muscogee Document Imaging Company staff consists of an Operations Manager, Warehouse Manager, Warehouse Supervisor, Imaging Supervisor, Document Handlers, Document Preparation Clerks, and Data Entry/Scanning Clerks.  
Employment with Muscogee Document Imaging Company is open to all individuals. Native American and Creek Preference is granted in initial appointments and in other personnel actions such as promotions in compliance with applicable federal and tribal laws. Currently, 95% of the staff employed are Native Americans. Document Imaging is a drug-free workplace.  
The Muscogee Document Imaging

Company continuously supports the growth and advancement of Native Americans.  
Document Imaging offers: storage, document and record inventory, document and record imaging, microfiche, map, photos, slide and negative imaging, access to documents via secured internet server, removable computer media, and destruction.  
For more information, call Document Imaging at (918) 732-7760 or (918) 732-7741. Document Imaging’s hours are Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and are located at 1010 E Eufaula, Okmulgee, OK 74447.

Request for Business information

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Communications Department is accepting information on Muscogee owned and/or operated businesses and Muscogee business owners. If you, or someone you know, owns or operates a business and is a Muscogee Citizen write in and let us know about them and let us let everyone else know about them as well. It doesn’t matter if their business is a multinational corporation or doing bead work and selling it out of their house, all Muscogee owned or operated businesses are applicable.  
Information on businesses will be ran as space permits and on a first come first served basis. Up to one picture can be ran with the information.  
Please send information to: Muscogee Creek Nation Communications Department, ICO: Joshua Slane, P. O. Box 580, Okmulgee, Ok. 74447.

An introduction to Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise

OKMULGEE — Many citizens have heard of Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise (MNBE) but not everyone knows exactly what, and who, the company is. Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise (MNBE) was created by Tribal Law 99-10 by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council and signed into law on February 2, 1999 by then Principal Chief Perry Beaver. The tribe created MNBE to identify and successfully operate business ventures. MNBE received SBA 8(a) and HUBZone Certification in 2002. The MNBE Board of Directors hired Michael Nalley, Director of MNBE in March of 2003 and today there are over 110 employees nationwide working in Construction, Telecommunications/IT, Professional Staffing Services and Fire & Security. MNBE’s charter is to build new enterprises that will strengthen and diversify the economic foundation of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and to provide career opportunities for its citizens.  
Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise (MNBE) is a Tribal corporation solely owned by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and operates as a separate entity. MNBE is certified by the Small Business Administration as a Tribal 8(a) and HUBZone company. MNBE is also certified with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) as a Disadvantage Business Enterprise.  
Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise is governed by a three member Board of Directors. The Board of Directors for MNBE is made up of Chairman of the Board and Second Chief of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Alfred Berryhill, Tribal Citizen John Freeman and Businessman Jimmy Williams.  
MNBE Construction is a division focused on delivering to Government and Commercial customers world class Design, Build, General Contracting, and Construction Management Services. Work performed includes: Project Planning, Programming, Architectural Services, Civil, Mechanical, Structural, and Electrical. MNBE Construction develops alliances and partnerships to minimize delivery time and maximize the delivery of required products. MNBE is able to develop shop drawings and order products directly from the source. This ability reduces delivery time by 25% and enables optimized pricing based on market conditions and facilitates delivery of building materials.  
MNBE Construction has the knowledge and experience for full implementation of a project from initial planning to quality control to project close-out. MNBE will provide quality craftsmanship at competitive prices in a monitored, safe, and clean environment.  
MNBE Fire and Security provides professional design, installation, service, inspections and the integration of multiple low voltage systems to co-exist in high profile situations with flawless integrity. Exceptional customer service and product knowledge are keys to our success in the marketplace. Our technicians are trained and certified by the equipment manufacturers to provide the highest level of service. With the use of various technologies such as door monitoring, motion detection, seismic detection, glass breakage detection, and two way audio monitoring, we will secure your facility and give you the piece of mind you deserve.  
MNBE Fire and Security specializes in the design of systems for the gaming community, federal facilities, and other commercial settings.  
MNBE can design install and service Access Control systems to meet a variety of needs. Today’s Access Control system is far more advanced allowing for a combination of technologies to be utilized. Proximity readers, biometric readers, and magnetic card readers are available. Our capabilities include personnel management, photo badging and employee tracking with systems that allow you to manage personnel access in multiple facilities.  
MBNE is capable of developing, implementing and managing telecommunications and information networks of any size, onsite or remotely. Our services include planning, analysis, design, systems integration, installation, web design, and project management.  
MNBE, through Strategic Teaming relationships, is able to provide expertise and manpower on the largest to the smallest Federal contract opportunity. Our Strategic Teaming relationships enable MNBE to enter a contract as either the Prime or the Sub Contractor. Through these relationships and together with our Construction Management and Security Divisions MNBE can offer full-integrated services. Our integrated services can be used to design campus and building network communication infrastructures consisting of climate controlled communications equipment rooms, cabling conduit systems, fiber and copper cabling systems, electrical support systems and controlled access security solutions. These integrated services can offer outsource management of campus and building cabling systems, networks and telecommunications equipment, data centers, and facilities.  
MNBE can provide for Network systems and desktop assembly, staging, burn-in, and configuration. MNBE can facilitate and manage any size Work Station and Network Device Management Help Desk, Service Order Processing either remotely or on customer site. Our team of engineers and technicians maintain a high level of certifications to achieve the ideal solution for effective systems management.  
The following are the NAICS codes the U.S. Small Business Association has approved for MNBE: 56149 other business support services 236115 new single-family housing construction (except operative builders) 236116 New Multifamily Housing Construction (except operative builders) 236117 new housing operative builders 236118 Residential re-modelers 236220 commercial and institutional building construction 237310 highway, street, and bridge construction 238160 roofing contractors 238210 electrical contractors 238220 plumbing, heating, and air conditioning 238330 flooring contractor 238910 Site preparation contractors 238990 All other specialty trade contractors 423430 computer and computer peripheral equipment and software merchant wholesalers 423610 electrical apparatus & equipment, wiring supplies, & related equipment merchant wholesalers 423690 Other electronic parts and equipment merchant Wholesalers 514210 Data Process Services 517110 Wired Telecommunications Carriers 517212 Cellular and Other Wireless Telecommunications 517310 Telecommunications Resellers 517910 Other Telecommunications 518111 Internet Service Provider 518210 Data Processing, Hosting, and Related Services 519190 All Other Information Services 524113 Direct Life Insurance Carriers 524126 Direct Property and Casualty Insurance Carriers 524128 Other Direct Insurance (except Life, Health, and Medical) Carriers 524130 Reinsurance Carriers 524210 Insurance Agencies and Brokerages 524292 Third Party Administration of Insurance and Pension Funds 524298 All Other Insurance Related Activities 525120 Health and Welfare Funds 525190 Other Insurance Funds 525990 Other Financial Vehicles 541330 Engineering Services 541430 Graphic Design Services 541490 Other Specialized Design Services 541511 Custom Computer Programming Services 541512 Computer Systems Design Services 541513 Computer Facilities Management Services 541519 Other Computer Related Services 541611 Administrative Management and General Management Consulting Services 541612 Human Resources and Executive Search Consulting Services 541613 Marketing Consulting Services 541690 Other Scientific and Technical Consulting Services 561210 Facilities Support Services 561410 Document Preparation Services 561421 Telephone Answering Services 561422 Telemarketing Bureaus 561440 Collection Agencies 561499 All Other Business Support Services 561612 Security Guards and Patrol Services 561621 Security Systems Services (except Locksmiths) 562991 Septic Tank and Related Services 811212 Computer and Office Machine Repair and Maintenance 811213 Communication Equipment Repair and Maintenance 811219 Other Electronic and Precision Equipment Repair and Maintenance.  
If you would like to learn more about MNBE, contact them at (918) 752-3150, visit their website www.mnbe.com, or write to them at: Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise, P.O. Box 147, Okmulgee, OK 74447.



HEALTH HIGHLIGHTS

MCN Division of Health Administration

Breast Cancer awareness Team Hoktvke Hoktvke Emvnicahkvt to walk TULSA — Y-Me National Breast Cancer Organization, Northeastern Oklahoma Affiliate, “Walk To Empower” Sunday, Mother’s Day, May 14, 8 a.m. at Memorial High LaFortune Stadium. The mission of the Y-ME National Breast Cancer Organization is to ensure, through information, empowerment and peer support that no one faces breast cancer alone.

Some of the programs and services include: 24 Hour National Breast Cancer Hotline; the only hotline staffed by trained peer counselors who are breast cancer survivors; Wig and Prosthesis Bank provides products free-of-charge to women with limited resources; Camp Hope - a day away from cancer for breast cancer survivors (4 times year Northeastern OK Affiliate); Support Groups - groups for newly diagnosed, groups for persons with lymphedema, men (and others).

“This team, “Women Helping Women - Hoktvke Hoktvke Emvnicahkvt” is comprised of individuals from Creek Nation (six total), Cherokee Nation and non-Indians as well. Some of the team members are breast cancer survivors, some have been touched by breast cancer and some are interested in supporting the cause. “We are recruiting team members and would welcome your support and company on Walk Day,” states Team Captain, Jeanie Smith, NE OK Board affiliate and Governance. For more information visit the web site for details and to check out the team at [www.tulsawalk.y-me.org](http://www.tulsawalk.y-me.org).

Healthy Heart Project for Creek citizens with diabetes

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Diabetes Program received an Indian Health Services competitive grant for \$400,000 per year for the next five years for an intensive management project to help reduce the risk of heart attack and stroke in the Native American population who currently have diabetes.

The Diabetes program has titled this project the Healthy Heart Project and it is currently in its second year of the grant.

The Diabetes Program was one of 33 health care systems throughout the nation awarded this grant. “We are fortunate to be one of the 33 health care systems to be awarded this grant. This is a carefully planned demonstration project. The project is designed to provide intensive care in order to reduce risk factors,” said Del Nutter, Acting CEO for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Health System, “If this project demonstrates that this kind of care reduces these debilitating and often fatal issues, more funding is likely to become available so that all people with diabetes can access this care,” added Nutter.

The Healthy Heart Project has

limited staff to provide intensive care to a limited number of people. Appointed Case Manager, Debra Dixon, a registered nurse for the MCN Health System is working with the diabetes

Brassuell “We, in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Health System, are fortunate to have patients who have a high interest in their health. We went to a recent planning meeting in Denver and became aware that many programs are having a lot of difficulty in recruiting the required 50 participants for their Healthy Heart Project. One week after our invitation letter, 69 people responded that they would like to be a part of the Healthy Heart Project. I believe that is because we have 700 plus graduates of our diabetes self-management program (EPIC), who are willing to use anything available to them on next year’s waiting list. Recruitment for the third year will start in October,” added Brassuell.

team at each local clinic. Dixon will be making visits to each clinic on a rotating basis and will see each participant every month until they reduce the risk factors into healthy ranges.

“The participation goal is 50 participants per year or 150 total participants. Each clinic should recruit and retain 12 to 20 participants annually. Any person with diabetes may participate. However, we are placing priority on those who have graduated the EPIC program, which is the Diabetes program of self management and education on diabetes,” states Diabetes Program Coordinator, Johnnie

According to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Health System, the first year obligated to planning, as well as the second current year.

Baseline information is nearly complete and the intervention part of the project will begin in April 2006.

For more information about the Healthy Heart Project, contact the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Diabetes Program at (918)756-3334 ext. 248 or visit a diabetes program office in a Creek Health Facility clinic.



Tobacco Prevention posts signs for policy

OKMULGEE — Have you seen the signs? The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tobacco Prevention Program has placed signs at all Muscogee (Creek) Nation Health Centers. The signs read “No commercial tobacco abuse on health facilities property”. The signs were placed at the health centers to confirm the no smoking policy. The policy also includes all forms of commercial tobacco and all health centers are commercial tobacco free.

Commercial tobacco abuse includes cigarettes whether hand rolled or rolled commercially, chew tobacco, cigars, snuff, and pipe tobacco. Smoking or the use of any commercial tobacco product is prohibited in or on all buildings, grounds,

parking lots, ramps, vehicles, and sidewalks adjacent to the properties owned, leased, or operated by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Health System. Muscogee (Creek) Nation community centers hosting the Elderly Nutrition Program may apply this policy at their facility if they so choose to do so. “The health and well being of our tribal members and our tribal employees are the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tobacco Prevention Program’s number one goal,” said Marcus Proctor, Program Specialist. The policy is a higher standard of health care. It is a safety standard for all the citizens. One third of all fires are started by cigarettes. The MCN Health System wants to do its part.

“I was happy to see the signs

placed because they let everyone know about the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Health System’s Commercial Tobacco Free Policy which went into effect July 1, 2005,” says Debra Isham, Director of the Okmulgee Health Center. “Before the policy was established, some people used to smoke outside the main doors to the clinic which meant that patients, including children or elders with all types of health problems sometimes had to walk through a cloud of smoke to enter the clinic,” she added. The policy prohibits smoking or the use of commercial tobacco anywhere on tribal health clinic and program premises, in or around buildings, grounds, parking lots, ramps, vehicles and sidewalks adjacent to the prop-

erties of the health system and applies to employees, patients, providers, volunteers, visitors, vendors and the public.

“Many hospitals and organizations have also adopted this same type of policy. There are posters and signs on all clinic doors, but some people don’t realize that the policy also covers the outside of the property as well. When informed about the policy, most are agreeable and say they didn’t know smoking was prohibited on the clinic grounds and parking lots,” said Isham.

For more information about the no smoking policy signs, contact the Tobacco Prevention Program at (918)756-6231.

Vocational Rehabilitation services available

OKEMAH — Vocational Rehabilitation Services provide help to people with disabilities to prepare for employment based on each individual’s abilities and interest.

A person may be found eligible for services depending upon his or her individual needs.

A client information packet and a document list will be mailed or given to you to fill out. Upon visiting with a counselor you will need to take proof of income; proof of Indian blood; Social Security number; proof of age; proof of address/resident verification; proof of disability (reports of recent medical examination, school records or other information that may help the counselor understand your disability).

A diabnestic evaluation will be necessary to determine if you are eligible. The counselor may send you to a doctor if you have not had a recent medical examination; also a psychologist could be necessary to help determine your disability.

The counselor may require you

to take some tests to explore your interests, abilities, and skills, send you to a vocational evaluation center to determine the type of jobs that you would be good at and enjoy doing.

Eligibility may take up to 60 days to determine. Extension of time is request to get all information together in some cases. In severe cases it may take up to 18 months to determine eligibility. This is referred to as Trial work Evaluation.

In order to receive services through this program you must be a member of a recognized American Indian tribe; live within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation jurisdictional area; have a physical and or mental impairment that makes it very difficult for you in getting or keeping a job; be willing and capable to complete a service plan that is developed by you with the assistance of a counselor and demonstrate by clear and convincing evidence that once you have received services you will be able to work.

Once you have become a client, based on resources, priorities and comprehensive assessment of your abilities, career interests, and informed choices. Counselors will develop a plan called an Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE).

The IPE will include your employment/work goals and what is expected of you in reaching your goals; what types of services you will be provided; what Muscogee (Creek) Nation VR will pay for and the services you will pay for, if any, and the beginning and ending dates you can expect to get services.

After the client has been successfully employed for 90 days and no other services are required, the case will be closed.

However, your counselor will continue to check on your progress every three months until you have been employed for one year.

Before case closure, your counselor will inform you of the availability of post-employment services that

may be required to maintain this employment, as well as the procedure for obtaining these services through the Vocational Rehabilitation program.

Some disabilities recognized through the Vocational Rehabilitation Program include Amputation, Asthma, Cancer, Cardiovascular, Carpel tunnel, Cerebral palsy, Diabetes, End Stage renal disease, Hearing impairments, learning disabilities, mental disorders, Multiple sclerosis, Neurologists disorders, obesity, orthopedic impairments, orthopedic back impairments, seizure disorders, substance abuse and visual impairments. Physical and or mental conditions must be stable, slowly progressive or remediable.

All information is kept strictly confidential.

To apply for Vocational Rehabilitation Services call (918) 623-1197 or visit at 401 South Woody Guthrie in Okemah.



Tribes protecting tribes

by Nancy Harjo, Patrick Murphy and Jesse Davila

“We’re the best kept secret in Indian Country, and oftentimes it isn’t until disaster strikes that people find out about us,” says Kent Paul, Chief Executive Office of AMERIND Risk Management Corporation.

In its 20<sup>th</sup> year of protecting Indian Country, the products and services at AMERIND are not reaching those who need the service the most. As the premier Native owned risk management company, AMERIND is proud to have the cooperation of over 450 tribes who come together to provide protection that many people in cities can get without difficulty. Those who find it difficult are often our family and neighbors, even ourselves.

“I grew up in reservation housing and it wasn’t until I sought employment with the company I was able to understand how my home and tribe were protected,” said Jesse Davila, Risk Services Specialist, “Now, many people who I speak with don’t even know protection is available. Today, I find it my responsibility to make sure information about our products and services reach all tribal communities.”

One hundred seventy-five Indian housing authorities formed AMERIND in 1986 with the assistance of tribal leaders and officials from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). In conjunction with the National American Indian Housing Council, founding Indian Housing Authorities pooled 18 million dollars to launch the risk pool. Today, over 450 tribes participate and have an equity interest in the company.

Risk pools are a very cost effective way to provide insurance protection for individuals who cannot otherwise secure resources alone. Many risk pools across

America provide health care, financial services, and like AMERIND, insurance protection that cannot be found elsewhere. “Traditional insurance companies have turned their back on rural America, including Indian Country. AMERIND proves that tribes can work together and will be here as long as we are needed,” said Paul, from his corner office in AMERIND’s new 16,000 square foot facility in Santa Ana Pueblo, New Mexico.

“Rather than profits going back to benefit stockholders of an insurance company, our profits are returned directly to our member policy holders in the form of low rates,” said Paul. “Also many of our tribes are located where there is no fire protection or water. Still we are able to offer them coverage 25 to 40 percent below what a traditional insurance company plan would be—if those companies would even consider giving that type of coverage in remote areas.”

AMERIND has been a leader by providing affordable, sustainable and culturally sensitive products and services that protect Tribes, their families and their employees. From the Native American Shield program, which protects individual homeowners from a loss such as a fire, to the Tribal Employee Injury Protection program, an affordable alternative to Worker’s Compensation, all programs specifically serve Native Americans.

In addition to coverage AMERIND provides customized training, risk assessment assistance, community outreach dollars and individual community presentations. Our team of professionals is ready to provide excellent service. For more information, call (800) 352-3496 or visit [www.amerind-corp.org](http://www.amerind-corp.org) or contact Muscogee Creek Nation Housing Division at: (918) 756-8504 or (800) 259-5050.

COMMUNITY SHIELD  
PROTECTION PROGRAM



Offering protection for Creek Citizens against property damage caused by fire, storm, or other natural disasters.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Housing Division/Authority is now offering property coverage for Creek Citizens who are renting or own their own homes.

The program offers coverage for both homeowners and renters. Coverages includes home protection for homeowners, personal property, personal liability, and emergency living expenses.

To be eligible for the program applicants must be enrolled Muscogee (Creek) Citizens, reside within the state of Oklahoma and use the dwelling to be covered as their principle place of residence.

The Housing Division and Amerind Risk Management retain the right to inspect the covered property, and require loss prevention efforts on part of the participants and does not assume responsibility for maintenance of the covered property.

The participant will be solely responsible for filing all claims directly to Amerind with claim payments based on replacement cost up to the coverage limits.

For more information about the program contact

Lenora McPerryman

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Division of Housing  
(918) 756-8504 or 800-259-5050 Ext. 4117

THUNDERSTORM SAFETY TIPS

Terms to Know

**SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WATCH** - issued when severe thunderstorms are possible in and close to the watch area. The watch is issued to alert you to the possibility that thunderstorms with damaging winds and large hail may develop. Listen to NOAA Weather Radio and your local media weather updates and stay informed!

**SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING** - issued when a severe thunderstorm has been spotted and is going to move through your county soon. The key is to remain CALM, but take precautionary action IMMEDIATELY to protect your life and property. Act Now to be Prepared Know the county in which you live and the names of nearby cities. Severe weather warnings are issued on a county basis.

Have disaster supplies on hand, including:

- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Battery operated radio and extra batteries
- First aid kit and manual
- Emergency food and water
- Non-electric can opener
- Essential medicines
- Checkbook, cash, credit cards, ATM cards

Before the Storm

Check the weather forecast before leaving for extended periods outdoors. Watch for signs of approaching storms. If a storm is approaching, keep a NOAA Weather Radio or AM/FM radio with you. Postpone outdoor activities if storms are imminent. Check on neighbors who require special assistance: infants, the elderly, and people with disabilities.

During the Storm

Remember: If you can hear thunder, you are close enough to the storm to be struck by lightning. Go to safe shelter immediately. Move to a sturdy building or car. Do Not take shelter in small sheds, under isolated trees, or in convertible automobiles. If lightning occurs and sturdy shelter is not available, get inside a hard top automobile and keep the windows up. Get out of boats and away from water. Telephone lines and metal pipes can conduct electricity. Unplug appliances not necessary for obtaining weather information. Avoid using the telephone or any electrical appliances. Use phones only in an emergency. Do not take a bath or shower. Turn off air conditioners. Power can overload the compressors. Get to higher ground if flash flooding or flooding is possible. Do Not attempt to drive to safety. Most flash flooding deaths occur in automobiles. If you are caught outdoors and no shelter is nearby find a low spot away from trees, fences, and poles. Make sure the place you pick is not subject to flooding. If you are in the woods, take shelter under the shorter trees. If you feel your skin tingle or your hair stand on end, squat low to the ground on the balls of your feet. Place your hands on your knees with your head between them. Make yourself the smallest target possible; minimize your contact with the ground.

After the Storm

Check on neighbors who may require special assistance: infants, the elderly, and people with disabilities. Avoid all downed power lines. Assume that all have live electricity. Continue to monitor NOAA Weather Radio and your local media for latest weather updates.



Many Native American families find it difficult becoming a homeowner due to the high out of pocket cost of obtaining a mortgage loan.

The Mortgage Assistance Program is designed to help our Tribal Citizens realize their dream of becoming a homeowner by providing financial assistance needed to acquire a mortgage loan to eligible applicants.

For More Information Contact:

MORTGAGE ASSISTANCE  
PROGRAM  
P.O. Box 297  
Okmulgee, Ok 74447  
1-800-259-5050  
918-759-4137

The Mortgage Assistance Program  
is a program of the

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION  
DIVISION OF HOUSING

To be eligible for the program, clients must meet the following requirements established by The Mortgage Assistance Program and by the Native American Housing Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA).

- Be a first time home buyer.
- Live within the state of Oklahoma.
- Not be an existing or former Mutual Help Participant of NAHASDA Homebuyer/Lease with option to Purchase regardless of a Housing Service Area.
- Have an annual family income which does not exceed 80% of the national Median income published by HUD.
- Be 18 years or older.
- Provide all requested information, Citizenship card for preference purposes, Social Security cards, and employment verification for each working family member on the required forms.
- Sign all required forms including the consent for disclosure of information.
- Be able to meet all credit check and financial obligations for loan assistance from an approved and certified financial lender.
- Preference given to Creek Citizens.

Eligible clients may qualify for up to \$25,000.



Head Start now accepting applications  
OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Head Start is now enrolling three to five year olds.

Listed is a list of the following documents required for enrollment: Parents Income Verification (Pay stubs, W-2 Form, TANF Letter, SSI Letter, or Statement from Employer), Child’s Immunization Record, child’s Medical Card, Child’s CDIB(if applicable), Child’s Birth Certificate, Child’s Social Security card, Complete Physical Form, and Complete Dental Exam.

Applications may be obtained Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. at the Creek Nation Head Start located at 1808 N. Miami . The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Head Start Program does not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, sex, or disabilities.

For more information call (918) 758-1430.

School Clothing Reminder  
OKMULGEE — The School Clothing Assistance Program will be starting soon. The application process for citizenship takes about 10 to 12 weeks.One of the School Clothing Assistance is the child must be an enrolled member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. If the child is not a citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation that child will be denied for school clothing assistance. A list of all the guidelines will be attached to the school clothing application.

For more information, call the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Office of Child Care at (918) 732-7680 or (800) 205-3705 and ask to speak with Melody Hicks.

## Muscogee Nation Lighthouse Reserve police officers

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee Nation Lighthouse Reserve police officers began without a budget and used old uniforms and equipment. With little money they had from a seized vehicle, they purchased some equipment.

The Reserve officers work with no compensation and are trained to do the same work as the Lighthouse Tribal Police. A minimum of 24 hours per month required in order for the Reserves to keep commission. In order to be a Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthouse reserve, they have to attend a Reserve academy and work with a full time police officer.

Another program in association with the reserves is the Explorer program. This is a program for the youth to take part in. The youth train in the field of the reserves, but the program is over when the youth becomes 20 years of age.

When that time comes the student is well trained and can apply for a spot in the

Reserves. And with having experience the youth has a better chance of being a Reserve. The Reserves help with many things such as with last year they helped with the Annual Festival. “We have increased man

power, and have come a long way.” says Reserve coordinator, Keith Jackson.

The current Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthouse Reserves



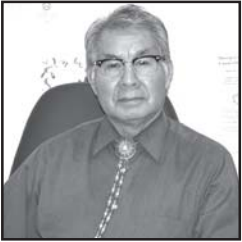
Front row: Teresa Roberts, Amanda Martinez, Chris Cochran, Back row: Myron Fixico, Michael Fish, Daniel Checotah, and Keith Jackson. Not pictured: Gino Berry hill, Larry Garrett, Sulyn chaffin, and Shane Pittser.

are as follows: Gino Berryhill and Amanda Martinez, Okmulgee Casino; Chris Cochran, Tulsa Casino; Michael Fish, Million Dollar Elm Casino in Sand Springs; Suyln Chaffin and Myron Fixico, Okemah Casino; Teresa Roberts, Tribal Police dispatch; Larry Garrett, inspector at Housing Authority; Shane Pittser, ADG; Daniel Checotah, City of Beggs, and is the only former Lighthouse, Reserve coordinator Keith Jackson, and co-coordinator Daniel Wind.

For more information about the Reserves or the Explorer program call (918) 759-1206.

## Officers elected for Inter-Tribal Veterans

MCALESTER — In January 2006 the first Inter-Tribal meeting was held with the election of tribal veteran officers. On March 11th in McAlester, the newly elected officers took part in their first official meeting. Among the Muscogee (Creek)



Jackson Barnett

citizens elected into office were; Jackson Barnett, President and Robert (Bill) Jones, Sergeant-At-Arms.

The next meeting will be held at the Inter-Tribal Meeting in Midwest City on April 20th & 21st.

If you have any questions contact Jackson Barnett at (918) 732-7723.



Bill Jones

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### Clinician - Behavioral Health Services

A Masters Degree in Counseling Psychology or related field. One year relevant experience in counseling. LPC, LMFT or LCSW licensure/certifications valid in the State of Oklahoma is preferred. Incumbents who do not possess valid licensers/certifications as specified must be actively working toward obtaining this licensure/certification.

### Medical Records Clerk (5 Positions) - Coweta

High School Diploma or GED equivalency is required. One (1) year relevant experience is preferred. is required.

### Audiologist - Coweta

Masters Degree doctoral (Ph.D.) or equivalent in Audiology received from an accredited College or University. One (1) year of relevant experience in addition to experience gained through an accredited Audiologist clinical practicum. Certification of Clinical Competence in Audiology (CCC-A) issued through the American Speech and Hearing Association (ASHA) and current State of Oklahoma Licensure for Audiologists is required.

### Clinical Director - Behavioral Health Services

A Ph.D. or Psy.D. in Clinical or Counseling Psychology from an accredited college/university. Five (5) years experience as a licensed psychologist. Five (5) years of managerial or supervisory experience. Current Licensure by the State of Oklahoma as a Psychologist or Health Services Psychologist is required.

### Staff Dentist - Sapulpa

A DDS or DMD from a dental school accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation and a certificate from an accredited General Practice Residency program. Or, a DDS or DMD from a dental school accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation. Licensure or ability to be licensed to practice dentistry in a state, territory or commonwealth of the United States, or in the District of Columbia. One year of relevant experience in addition to experience gained through an accredited residency program or three additional years of relevant experience without certification from an accredited residency program as stated in the educational requirements.

### Physician Assistant - (2 Positions)

Successful completion of an accredited course of study specifically designed

for training professional Mid-Level Providers. One (1) year of relevant experience preferred. Course of study or program completed by the incumbent must be approved by a nationally recognized professional medical body such as the AMA, AAMC or other body established for this purpose.

### Coding Specialist

High School Diploma or GED equivalent is required. A bachelors or Associates Degree in Health Administration or Technology is preferred. Three (3) to five (5) years relevant experience dependent upon the education qualifications stated above. Certification as a CPC or CCS-P is required. Certification from an accredited coding certification program is required. Incumbent must possess a valid Oklahoma State Driver’s License and be insurable.

### Dental Assistant - Sapulpa

High School Diploma or GED equivalent is required. Completion of training from an accredited school as a Dental Assistant and/or Certificates of Training received from the Oklahoma State Board of Dentistry or IHS is preferred but not required. One year of relevant experience as a dental assistant.

### Billing Technician (Accounts Receivable)

Associate Degree in accounting or a related business field is preferred. One year of relevant experience is required with an Associates Degree. Four years of relevant experience may be substituted for the educational requirements stated above.

### LPN - 5 (Positions) - Coweta

Graduation from an accredited practical nursing curriculum is required. One (1) year relevant experience as a member of a nursing team. Incumbent is required to possess current licensure by the State of Oklahoma for Practical Nursing and current CPR certification.

### Lead Cook Supervisor - ENP

High School Diploma or GED equivalent is required. Two (2) years relevant experience in food services or related field. Incumbent must possess a valid food handler’s permit, valid Oklahoma State Drivers License and be insurable.

### Physician Assistant - Okemah (2 Positions)

Successful completion of an accredited course of study specifically designed for training professional Mid-Level Providers.

ers. One (1) year of relevant experience preferred. Course of study or program completed by the incumbent must be approved by a nationally recognized professional medical body such as the AMA, AAMC or other body established for this purpose.

### Compliance Officer

GS-8, \$14.83 per hour: Associate Degree in Business or Health Administration or related field is and completion of formal coding training (CPC or CCS-P is preferred) and three (3) years of progressively responsible experience in medical/hospital billing.

GS-10, \$17.89: Bachelors degree in Business or Health Administration or related field and two (2) years of relevant experience.

GS-12, \$21.06: M.B.A., M.P.H. or C.P.A. and one (1) year of relevant work experience. Compliance experience is strongly preferred for any of the above levels. Valid Oklahoma Driver’s License is required.

### Medical Lab Technician - Eufaula

Successful completion of 90 semester hours of academic credit from an accredited institution to satisfy requirements of the position and completion of a structured curriculum in Medical Laboratory Techniques received from a school of Medical Technology recognized by an accredited board of registry. Two (2) years of pertinent full-time Laboratory experience as a Technician Trainee in a Laboratory performing highly complex testing may be substituted for the educational requirements. Valid ASCP certification as an MLT or an MT.

### Physician - Sapulpa

Candidates must be a graduate of an accredited college/university of medicine receiving a M.D. or D.O. and must possess a current State of Oklahoma license to practice medicine, a DEA license. Medicare provider agreement, and ACLS certification. One (1) year of relevant experience in addition to experience gained through an accredited residency program or three (3) years of relevant experience without certification from an accredited residency program as stated in the educational requirements. Incumbent must possess current State of Oklahoma License to practice medicine and /or be able to obtain this license prior to employment with the Health System.

### Physician

Candidates must be a graduate of an accredited college/university of medicine receiving a M.D. or D.O. and must possess a current State of Oklahoma license to practice

tice medicine, a DEA license. Medicare provider agreement, and ACLS certification. One (1) year of relevant experience in addition to experience gained through an accredited residency program or three (3) years of relevant experience without certification from an accredited residency program as stated in the educational requirements. Incumbent must possess current State of Oklahoma License to practice medicine and /or be able to obtain this license prior to employment with the Health System.

### Medical Lab Technician-Okemah

High School Diploma or GED equivalent is required. Successful completion of 60 semester hours of academic credit necessary to satisfy requirements of the position as well as a structured curriculum in Medical Laboratory Techniques at an accredited institution is preferred. Two (2) years of relevant full-time Laboratory experience performing highly complex testing as a Technician Trainee may be substituted for the educational requirements. Certification as a MLT through the ASCP is preferred.

### Chief Operating Officer (C.O.O.)

Bachelor’s Degree in Business or related field is required. A Masters Degree in same area of study is preferred. Two (2) years relevant experience gained through working in a tribal setting.

### CEO - Division of Health Administration

Academic training through the Masters level in one of the public or allied health sciences, Business or Management fields. Substantial experience managing public health programs which encompasses work in the following direct health care activities; Hospital/Ambulatory Care, Preventative/ Rehabilitation/Contract Health services. In addition, candidates must clearly show demonstrated ability to work with health care professional organizations at the State or National level. Evidence of an extensive amount of professional development and accomplishments as evidenced by promotions, career broadening assignments, demonstrated ability in public and professional presentations, active participation in professional organizations recipient of award of honors from nationally recognized associations for excellence and/or outstanding contributions to the field.

For more information, visit the website at: [www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov/health%administration/Jobs.htm](http://www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov/health%administration/Jobs.htm) or call (918)756-4333 or (800)782-8291.



JOM Career Day 2006

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) Johnson-O’Malley Program held their annual Career Day for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students at Covelle Hall on the OSU-Okmulgee Campus recently. It was a great success with 400 students, 48 sponsors, 30 presenters, three staff and five MCN volunteers participating.

The seventh and eighth grades are targeted before they reach high school to encourage them to have some career ideas when selecting subjects as they reach their high school years. “We are pleased to have this great turn-out and see the excitement as the students visit the various career opportunities presented,” said Jeri Brandon, JOM Program Assistant.

The various career presenters participating included Muscogee (Creek) Nation departments such as Employment and Training, Child Care, Accounting, Attorney General’s Office, Communications, and Lighthouse; also local businesses such as banking, National Guard Armory which provided a hum-vee; life-flite flew their helicopter on site; local law enforcement officers and their patrol cars, a swat team; FBI; local firemen brought a fire engine; veterinarian; information technology; and many others.

“We are encouraged to see our students participate in the activities provided for them by Johnson-O’Malley,”said Brandon.



Career day participants speak with Creek Nation staff

Trail of Tears Motorcycle Ride Scholarship Announced

OKMULGEE — The Trail of Tears Commemorative Motorcycle Ride® has announced a \$2500 donation to the Tribal College of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation to be used for a scholarship for a Native American student to attend the College. The decision was made at the March 11, 2006 Board meeting in Tennessee and applications are now available at the MCN Trade and Commerce Authority.

Eligibility is open to enrolled members of any federally recognized tribes who will enter the college in the fall of 2006. Successful applicants may continue to apply for assistance each year that they remain in college.

Further details and a downloadable application form are available on the Ride’s webpage at [www.al-tn-trailoftears.org](http://www.al-tn-trailoftears.org). Applicants must fill out a one page application form and submit their high school transcript with a cover letter expressing how the scholarship will help and how they will assist the Native American Community in the future. They will also need a letter of recommendation from a tribal or school official and will be required to contribute 30 volunteer hours to the Tribe during the year that they are attending school on scholarship funds. Application deadline is April 28, 2006 and the winner will be selected on June 6, 2006 and presented the award at the 2006 MCN Festival in June.

For more information contact Vicky at (918) 756-7417.

American Indian Law

OKMULGEE — Law is among the most important areas of our lives in the contemporary Muscogee Nation. Law touches every aspect of our lives in some way. Not only in the Muscogee Nation, but within the larger society of the United States. Law helps interpret and implement the rules and regulations of societies.

High court decisions from the federal judiciary in the United States determine individual, town, country, tribal, state, and national rights and obligations. Opinions of the highest federal court, the Supreme Court, can either recognize or diminish tribal sovereignty. Courts wield a great power. Their decisions can have a lasting impact on governments and individual people. All governments have some means of hearing and settling disputes. In the United States, the term is adjudication. You can visit the District Court of the Muscogee Nation. Its offices and chambers are inside The Mound building next to the National Council chamber. Judge Patrick Moore presides over the courtroom.

You can train to become an attorney. The educational path is a long one but it can be rewarding. You begin with an associate of arts degree, then go on to obtain a bachelor’s degree. After that you can be admitted to three more years of legal education.

That journey can begin with classes at Mvskoke Etlwv Nacokv Mvhahv Svhylwecvt (the College of the Muscogee Nation). Classes are offered at convenient time to fit with

people’s work and family schedules. You can learn not only information for credit in the courses but also skills that can be put to use in other courses, at your work, and in your daily life.

You cannot obtain a law degree from the College of the Muscogee Nation-yet. You can, however, take classes in political science and other areas of study that relate directly to laws and to lawmaking.

Muscogee Creek Nation Scholarship Pageant

HENRYETTA — This year the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Scholarship Pageant will be held at Henryetta High School Auditorium. Dates for the Miss Muscogee and the Jr. Miss Muscogee are Friday, June 2, 2006 at 7 p.m. The Sr. Ms. Muscogee and all the little Miss contestants will compete on Saturday, June 3, 2006 at 10 p.m.

All contestants must be 1/4 Creek and have a copy of their citizenship cards. CDIB cards will not be accepted.

Requirements for Miss Muscogee Nation:

- Must not be married or have been married.
- Must not have children.
- Must be a high school graduate prior to the Creek Festival.
- Must submit to a drug test.
- Must be able to make major apperarances which will require some evenings and weekends.

• Must realize this is a public position representing our Nation and be aware that your conduct and manner must be honorable during your reign.

Divisons are:

Miss Muscogee, ages 17-22

Jr. Miss, ages 14-17

Sr. Ms., ages 55 and over.

Little Miss Divison I ages 4-6

Little Miss Divison II ages 7-9

Little Miss Divison III ages 10-13

The deadline for the pageant application is May 5. For more information concerning requirements or obtaining an application, visit the website at [www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov](http://www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov) or call Mona “KoKo” Lowe at (918) 732-7649.

Free college courses available for Mvskoke Citizens

WETUMKA — Haskell Indian Nations University is entering into its second year of online classes offered to Muscogee Nation tribal members. Our online program has proven to benefit many Natives in rural America. Through a cooperative agreemmnt with Wes Watkins Technology Center located in Wetumka, a pilot program has started offering several college accredited courses to enrolled tribal members. It is now time for fall 2006 pre-enrollmemnt and there are plenty of spaces available. The Muscogee Nation National Council approved complete funding of Haskell online course and textbooks. These classes will be attended at the Wes Watkins site. We have tentatively scheduled the following courses for the spring semester:

HINU Distance Education Fall 2006

More Courses will be available soon; the **deadline for fall applications is April 30**. The applications can be obtained by calling the admissions office and requesting a packet by mail or by downloading online at the university website. New classes will be announced through the MCN newspaper next month.

If you have any questions, contact Nathan Anderson at (785) 832-6679 or by email at [n-anderson@haskell.edu](mailto:n-anderson@haskell.edu).

Course ID	SEC	Credit	Title	Days	Time
AIS101	2	3	Contemporary issues of American Indians	M/W/F	10:10-11:00
AIS344		3	American Indian Lit. in Translation	M/W	11:10-12:25
MTH100		3	Intermediate Algebra	M/W/F	1:10-2:00
AIS310	3	3	Introduction to American Indian Studies	T/TH	9:45-11:00
MTH011	1	3	Introduction to Algebra	T/TH	
MTH101		3	College Algebra	T/TH	11:15-12:30
AIS360	2	3	Theories of Decolonization and Indigenization	T/TH	1:00-2:15
	5				2:30-3:45
BUS232	1	3	Business Tech. Writing	Independent Study	
*		5	Muscogee Language I	M/W	4:30-6:50

- Requirements:
- Possess CDIB Card (Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood)
  - Possess Creek Tribal Enrollment Card
  - Recent Photo
  - Letter of Acceptance from College/University
  - High School Transcript or GED Certificate and College Transcript (if prior college)
  - Signed Privacy Statement attached to application
  - Financial need must be established through the University Financial Aid.

Students who receive the grant are expected to earn 15 hours per semester or quarter with a GPA of 2.0 or more. The awards must show academic progress: Students earning less than 15 hours or less than 2.0 shall be placed on probation. Students earning less than 12 hours or less with a GPA of less than 1.0 shall be suspended. unless student can provide a documentary evidence of illness.

The Higher Education Scholarship is limited to 10 semesters, 150 hours or Bachelor’s degree and for first time degrees. (Limit for a junior/community college is five semesters or 60 to 65 hours or associate degree).

Closing Date: Summer June 1st & Fall June 1 INCENTIVE GRANT

The Tribal Incentive Grant will award enrolled tribal citizens of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation who meet the grade point requirement of a 3.0 or more for the current term at an accredited college or university.

Maximum amount of Award per semester:

Full-Time Students (12 hrs or more): \$500 per semester/quarter

Part-Time Students (less than 12 hrs): \$250 per semester/quarter

This program is limited to 10 semesters. Students may apply within 45-days after the end of term.

Applications request: Muscogee (Creek) Nation Higher Education Administration P O Box 580 , Okmulgee, OK 74447.

Phone 918-732-7689 or [cdavis@muscogeenation-nsn.gov](mailto:cdavis@muscogeenation-nsn.gov)

All programs operate on availability of funds

Higher Education Program Information

OKMULGEE — The Creek Nation Higher Education Administration serves college students who are tribal members residing and attending Colleges and Universities in the United States. The purpose is to provide supplemental financial assistance to students of Creek descent pursuing a college and post college level education.

TRIBAL GRANT

The Tribal Funds Grant will award applicants who are enrolled tribal citizens.

Maximum amount of Award per semester:

Full-Time Students (12 hrs or more): \$1,000 per semester/quarter

Part-Time Students (less than 12 hrs): \$ 500 per semester/quarter

Requirements:

Possess Creek Tribal Enrollment Card

Provide Recent Photo

Signed Privacy Statement attached to application

Education Plan attached to application

Verification of enrollment is established through the University and College Registrar’s Office

The student must maintain a 2.5 GPA for program compliance. It is the student’s responsibility to submit grades from the previous term for continuance of program. Students earning a term GPA below 2.5 and 1.5 shall be placed on probation. Those earning below 1.5 GPA for the term and those withdrawing without a valid medical reason shall be suspended from the program. To become eligible for reinstatement, student must finance self and provide grades earning 12 hours at 2.5.

The award may be used to supplement other sources of aid. This program is limited to 10 semesters per student.

Closing date: Summer June 1st & Fall June 15 HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP (BIA )

Maximum amount of Award per semester/quarter:

\$0 - \$1000 Dependent

\$0 - \$1500 Independent

\$0 - \$2000 Married





Cultural events

**16th Annual Stompdance**  
NORMAN — The 16th Annual OU Stompdance will be held April 21 at Howard McCasland Field House on the University of Oklahoma campus. The stompdance will be presented by the American Indian Student Association. Ceremonies will open up with supper at 6 p.m. Dancing begins at 7 p.m. The master of ceremonies will be Troy LittleAxe and James Squirrel. Bring your own chairs. The Howard McCasland Field House is located from, I-35 to Norman, exit east on Lindsay Street, turn left (North) on Jenkins (past the football stadium), go through the stop sign (Brooks Street) and make a left (West) into Howard McCasland Field House parking lot. It’s the first building South of the parking lot and North of the stadium. For questions, contact Raven Chong-Sang by phone at (405) 314-4745 or e-mail at raven.n.chong-sang-1@ou.edu. For accommodations on the basis of disability, contact Lindy Waters at (405) 325-1468.

**Celebration of Life Stompdance**  
LAWRENCE, Kansas — The 15th Annual Gregg Sevier’s Celebration of Life Memorial/10th Annual Stomp Dance will be held April 22 at the Haskell Indian Nations University Stidham Union. The Stomp Dance is sponsored by the Alabama, Coushatta, Creek, Euchie and Seminole Club (ACCESS). The dinner will begin at 6 p.m. The dance will begin at 7 p.m. until 11 p.m. The emcee will be Troy LittleAxe. Special guests will be Sam Proctor & Co. For more information, contact Willie Sevier at (913) 843-6398, Jonathan Francis at (918) 707-0430 or Magdalene Alexander at (785) 218-3201.

**Native American Cultural Festival**  
MUSKOGEE — Bacone College will be holding a Native American Cultural Festival April 28 from 12 p.m. until 10 p.m. at The KIVA. The emcee will be Floyd Jones. Special guest will be Miss Indian Oklahoma, Elizabeth Wright. The festival events will include: Student Art and vendor exhibits, all day; Children’s craft time, 11 a.m. until 1 p.m.; Native American story telling, 1 p.m. until 1:45 p.m.; American Indian song & dance, 1:45 p.m. until 2:15 p.m.; Native

American demonstrations, 2:15 p.m. until 3:15 p.m.; Native American games, 3:15 p.m. until 4:15 p.m.; Fry Bread eating contest, 4:15 p.m. until 5 p.m.; Native American dance demonstrations, 6 p.m. until 7 p.m.; Native American story telling, 7 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.; Native American dance demonstrations, 7 p.m. until 8 p.m.; Native Jam Session, 9 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. and Medicine Pony, begins at 9:45 p.m. For more information, call Admissions at (918) 781-7340 or visit [www.bacone.edu](http://www.bacone.edu).

**Gathering of Nations**  
ALBUQUERQUE — The Gathering of Nations Powwow will be held April 27 through 29 at the University of New Mexico Arena. The Gathering of Nations brings together different tribes and people for their Powwow, Indian Trader’s Market and the Miss Indian World contest. According to their website, “Over 3,000 indigenous/Native American/Indian dancers and singers representing more than 500 tribes from Canada and the United States to participate socially and competitively. The goal for The Gathering of Nations is to, promote the traditions and culture of the American Indian people in the most positive manner possible, dispel stereotypes created about the Indian people, provide Native and non-native people the opportunity to participate, practice, teach and exchange tribal traditions among all tribes, and enrich other people from different cultural backgrounds about the history and heritage of America’s first inhabitants. The Gathering of Nations is an experience for all people, Indian and non-Indian.” The Indian Trader’s Market will feature Native American art, crafts, etc. and all the items featured in the market will be available for purchase throughout the Gathering. The Miss Indian World Pageant crowning will take place on April 27. Young ladies from across the United States will be competing for the title. The contestants will compete in a five-day competition. At the end of the competition, one lucky lady will be crowned Miss Indian World. Her reign will last for one year. The Gathering of Nations is a family event and everyone is welcome to attend. For more information, visit their website at [www.gatheringofnations.com](http://www.gatheringofnations.com).

The Hanging Judge, Friend of the Creek People *by Michael Moore*

Many years before becoming a Federal Judge, Issac Charles Parker, drew the attention of the then newly elected United States President Grant by Parker’s insistence, as a U.S. Congressman from Missouri, that American Indian Treaty’s be complied with by the Federal Government, including payment of money to the various Native American Tribes as required by the many Treaty provisions intended to sustain the Tribes with some income. The new President Grant also wished to have all the laws and Treaties with the American Indians complied with, and had been unsuccessful with the U.S. Congress until Congressman Parker was elected to the Congress. Both men had come into elected government service from varied backgrounds, but both individuals were college educated and were well-read for that time in history and both, by their Official actions as elected Federal Officials displayed a strong belief in the ‘vindication idea’, or ‘make it right concept’ that flows through much of the written law. President Grant, over time, came to rely on the new U.S. Congressman Parker in obtaining appropriation money for the American Indian Treaty payments, since Parker was a tireless advocate and would write-into legislation monetary amounts to be paid-out to the many Tribes as required by Treaties. The new U.S. President Grant had no help from any other Congressman in getting the appropriation monies for the Indian Tribes, other than Issac C. Parker. As a Federal District Judge that followed the law, Judge Parker would prevent the break-up of the Indian Nations for over twenty (20) years, while he was a Federal Judge. Both Grant and Parker had served as soldiers in the U.S. Army during the civil insurrection called by historians The War Between The States, or The Civil War, even though

there were few aspects about that War that could properly be categorized as “civil”, it being politics in its purest form as open armed warfare with widespread violent human death and destruction and property loss. Parker, in the Civil War, had served as an enlisted rifleman in the rank of Corporal, and Grant was a horse soldier, became a General Officer; U.S. Army Infantry Corporal Parker had worked, prior to the War, as an Attorney for the municipality of St. Joseph, Missouri, and U.S. Army General Grant, prior to the War, was a private citizen selling firewood as a street vendor on the streets of St. Louis, Missouri. Parker, while working as City Attorney for the City of St. Joseph, Missouri, prosecuted the Mayor of St. Joseph for being drunk and disorderly, the sentence was five days of street cleaning. The Mayor was also a Founding Father of St. Joseph, Missouri. In the years immediately subsequent to The War Between The States, many political changes were underway in government with many individuals now claiming to be big friends of the victorious Republic, mainly to obtain for themselves and their associates a lucrative ‘position’ with the Federal Government due to the Federal Government’s newly established superiority over all State Governments in the United States. Congressional Passage of Sections 2 and Section 3 of the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution prior to President Grant’s election, had by law destroyed the right vote, hold any office or serve on a jury of any individual that was thought to have had relatives that had assisted the Rebellion’s losing side, known as The Confederate States of America. The confiscation and loss of any and all income producing real estate was also brought into action against any individual thought to have had relatives that sympathized or helped the

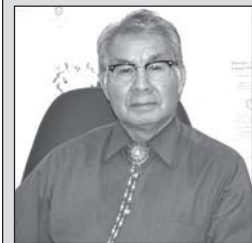
Rebels, by the confiscated businesses and real estate being ‘given’ to individuals who came to be called “carpetbaggers”. In application, Sections 2 and 3 of the 14<sup>th</sup> Article or Amendment to the U. S. Constitution, are likely unconstitutional. In Arkansas, groups running the winning political organizations, began to bicker and fight among themselves over control of the power of local and state government in Arkansas, and many seeking high government ‘positions’ were primarily conspiring to steal from the government, be it State, local, Federal, or the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. After the Civil War, the State government of Arkansas had collapsed when two different individuals, both Republicans, claimed to be the ‘elected Governor of Arkansas’. By this time, Grant was the popularly elected President of the United States, and he refused to send in Federal troops to quell the civil unrest in Arkansas that was developing into open fist fights among the Arkansas citizenry, over which individual was elected to which State Office in Arkansas. This situation is known in Arkansas history as “The Republican Civil War of 1868.” President Grant did, however, after investigating the situation in Arkansas, take action to eliminate, due to corruption in Office, two United States District Judges, whom had employed many of their relatives into Federal positions or jobs, openly asked for favors or bribes, rarely conducted any trials in the Federal Courthouse, received kickbacks or free services from many local businessmen because they were a “Judge”, and were rarely seen at their proper worksite, the Courthouse. President Grant consulted with both United States Senators from Arkansas about a new Federal Judge for Arkansas and the Indian Nations, both U.S. Senators urged the President NOT to

appoint anyone from Arkansas, but, instead, an outsider that above all would do ‘what was right.’ The President decided to appoint Parker as a Federal District Judge because he knew him personally after working with him on Congressional Appropriations for American Indians, and that the geographical area included in the Federal Judge’s jurisdiction included the Indian Nations, or Indian Territory. Parker would become known as “The Hanging Judge” for to his strong belief in the ‘vindication of the law’ function of the law, and knowing President Grant wanted the laws enforced correctly in an attempt to make things right. Due to the language of the Federal Statute establishing the United States District Court for the Western District of Arkansas and The Indian Territory, it is accurate to say that the only appeal from Judge Parker’s Court was to The President of the United States. President Grant had been impressed positively after working several years with Parker that he was ethical, that Parker knew the problems of the frontier area and people since Parker had grown-up on the frontier, and that Parker had been a common soldier. The United States District Court that President Grant would appoint Parker to was the largest geographically that would ever exist in the history of the United States consisting of 74,000 square miles, and was the most busy due to all the criminals flocking to “The Nations” to escape the law in the other States. Historians have estimated that 20,000 criminal fugitives, mainly white, were escaping into the Indian Territory every year. The fame of The Hanging Judge arose from his massive caseload and the resulting six-day per week Court sched-

SEE JUDGE - B6



Senior Service Manager Update by Jackson Barnett



A total of thirteen seniors departed Creek Nation March 17th, at 8:00 a.m. After going through I don't know how many toll gates, we arrived in Wichita about 1:00 p.m.

I stopped the van to ask for directions. It happened to be in front of a motorcycle dealership. I think my senior passengers thought we were stopping to ride motorcycles.

We found a nice restaurant near a mall and had a good lunch. Our waitress was extra nice and very friendly. We let her know that we appreciated her service.

After lunch we set out to find the Mid-America All Indian Center. Wichita

isn't that large of a city and we found the center after a short drive. I had called the Center some two days before, to inform them of our coming. They were expecting us and received us warmly. An Otoe-Missouri lady, Rosalie, gave us a guided tour. We were then free to shop and look around on our own. The Wichita's have a rich history and it was evident by their exhibits and photos.

After spending much of our money in their shops, we set out to find the motel where we would spend the night. We got all situated and rested for a couple of hours. We met at an agreed upon time and went out riding to find a dinner place. We had a Bar-b-que dinner then returned to our rooms to rest.

After partaking an excellent continental breakfast at the motel the next morning, we were on our way to find

the "Treasures of the World" museum. We found it with little to no trouble. We arrived at 9:30 a.m. and had to wait for the museum to open at 10:00 a.m.

The wait was worth it. The museum is a three story structure with each floor loaded with things to see; Pre-Historic relics, bones, South American, Meso-American Indian things, civil war, both world wars, all branches of the military, mummies, it's difficult to name them all. I myself enjoyed visiting the museum.

One person in our party contacted friends in Wichita and was told of an Indian Taco sale going on at a local church. We were all in agreement as to where we wanted to have lunch. A very friendly Creek lady, Louisa Bruner, from around Wetumka welcomed us. It's my understanding there are a number of Creeks living in Wichita.

I believe we and the Indian church helped each other. They provided us with a good lunch and fellowship and we were able to help their fund raising. As we boarded our three vehicles to leave, Ms. Bruner came out and went to each vehicle and bid us farewell.

Seems there are good Creek people everywhere.

We departed Wichita around 1:00 p.m. in the afternoon.

We caught rain or it caught us a short time down the road. It seemed to stay with us all the way to Creek country. We arrived in Okmulgee at 5:30 p.m. It was, as always good to get back home.

Short trip - short report. Until next time.

For more information regarding Senior Services, contact Jackson Barnett, Senior Services Manager, at (918) 732-7723.



Social Security Information by Sherry Corbin

Many of our citizens are applying or have applied for various types of benefits through the Social Security Administration. When you have applied for disability benefits it is very important that you have all your medical history available showing and verifying your disability history and even though you may have the doctor's documented facts concerning this, it is most often denied the first time through. When this happens many of our citizens tend not to follow-up again with the timely appeal and if they do may feel they have to hire an attorney in order to "win" their appeal.

However, even though the attorney says there is no upfront money and he doesn't collect until you win, that is the catching phrase. First of all, whatever entitlement you receive from Social Security on the disability, that attorney will be getting at least 10 percent of your award unless he puts it in writing the percentage he is to receive. For example, if you are awarded \$45,000 he will receive \$4,500 plus the possibility of court costs for his time. To me \$4,500 is a lot of money and is something that you, as the claimant, is entitled to every dollar that is awarded.

Before you hire an attorney, do this first, contact your local U.S. Congressman's office, no matter where you live, and tell them you would like to have a Privacy Release Form sent to you, because you are in need of their assistance with Social Security, Veteran's claims or anything else that you feel that office may be able to assist you with. They have caseworkers that work various types of cases for the Congressman and many times can cut through a lot of "red tape" and the best part is that it doesn't and will not cost you more than the phone call or postage to return the forms.

If you are filing for disability and have renal failure (Kidney failure) and have to use dialysis be sure to mention this to the Social Security Administration office at the point of application or to the Congressman's office as this disability is a priority.

Whatever your Social Security question, you can find clear, easy-to-understand answers on Social Security's website: [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).



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Muscogee, Seminole and Wichita Association 4th Sunday Dates

Alabama Cedar Spring Cold Spring Forest Creek Mission Hutchachuppa Little Coweta Little Quarsarty Many Springs Okmulgee Prairie Spring Spring Weogufkee West Eufaula Yardeka Quarsada Alabama	Artusse Bemo Beaver Bird Creek Deep Fork Hillabee Hickory Ground #2 Hillabee Mekusukey Middle Creek #2 Montesoma Okfuskee Pigeon Sand Creek Eufaula Silver Spring Tulmochussee Wetumka	Baptist S.S. Mission Butler Creek Cedar Creek Cedar Creek Eufaula Grave Creek Greenleaf Nuyaka Randall Ross Mission Sand Creek Sand Spring Thewarthle Tookparfka Tuskegee Seminole Arbeka Wekiwa Wewoka	Arbeka Big Arbor Cedar River Hickory Ground #1 High Spring (Okemah) High Spring (Konawa) Little Cussetah Middle Creek #1 New Arbor Rock Spring Salt Creek Snake Creek #1 Snake Creek #2 Seminole Baptist Vian Creek Trenton
April 16 May 14 June 11 July 9 August 6 September 3 October 1 October 29 November 26 December 24	April 23 May 21 June 18 July 16 August 13 September 10 October 8 November 5 December 3 December 31	April 30 May 28 June 25 July 23 August 20 September 17 October 15 November 12 December 10 January 7, 2007	May 7 June 4 July 2 July 30 August 27 September 24 October 22 November 19 December 17 January 14, 2007

REVIVALS

Grave Creek Baptist Church  
HITCHITA — Grave Creek Baptist Church will be having their revival on April 24 through 28 beginning at 7 p.m. nightly.  
For more information, call (918) 752-0980.

SINGINGS

Traditional Mvskoke Hymn Singing  
OKMULGEE — A traditional Mvskoke Hymn Singing will be held April 22 at Newtown Methodist Church from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m.  
The speaker will be Rev. Mitchell Taylor. Everyone is welcome.  
For more information, call (918) 756-2318 or (918) 629-9052.

West Eufaula Baptist Church  
EUFULA — West Eufaula Baptist Church will be having a gospel singing on May 6 at 7 p.m. in memory of Birdcreek Phillips.  
The emcee will be Curtis Kinney. Concession will be available. Everyone welcome. Bring your own lawn chairs.  
The church is located, from Eufaula, one mile west on Highway 9, one mile south, then turn west 1/10 mile.  
For more information, call Curtis Kinney at (918) 682-4703.

Springfield Methodist Church  
OKEMAH — Springfield Methodist Church will be having their 23rd Annual Gospel Singing on May 28 beginning at 7 p.m.  
The emcee will be Springfield Methodist. Concession will be available.  
The church is located from Okemah on Highway 27, three miles south, four miles east, and two miles south. Signs will be posted.

Ward Coachman Memorial Singing  
BRAGGS — Ward Coachman Memorial Singing will be held at Sand Springs Baptist Church on May 28 at 7 p.m.  
The emcee will be Curtis Kinney. Concession will be available. Everyone welcome. Bring your own lawn chairs.  
The church is located, one mile south of Braggs on Highway 10, then 1 ¼ mile west.  
For more information, call Curtis Kinney at (918) 682-4703.

WILD ONION DINNERS

Springfield Methodist Church  
OKEMAH — Springfield Methodist Church will be having their all-you-can eat wild onion dinner on April 22 beginning at 11 a.m.  
The cost is \$7 for adults and \$3.50 for children 12 & under.  
The church is located from Okemah on Highway 27, three miles south, four miles east, and two miles south. Signs will be posted.

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BIRTHDAYS

Emily Yonaytv Fixico

OKEMAH — Emily Yonaytv Fixico celebrated her first birthday on Nov. 19 at the home of her aunt and uncle, Susie and Allen Wind.

She was Born on Nov. 17 to Stephanie Berryhill and Johnny Fixico.

The party was attended by many relatives including: siblings, Eco Barnett of Norman and Jennifer Fixico of Moore; nieces, Seneca Fixico and Cheyenne Irvin, both of Moore; and cousins; Tamiko and Deion Dee of Yardeka, Thomas and Joseph Taylor of Okmulgee, and Alaysia, Mehenwa, and Yvhv Williams of Wilson.

Fixico is Ecovlke and is the daughter of Nokosvlke. She is the granddaughter of Hvlpvtvlke and Aktvyahcvlke. Fixico belongs to Ocevpopfv and is the daughter of Apehkv. She is the granddaughter of Kvsehtv and Vcenv Hvcce Tvlse.

Her maternal grandparents are Jo Ann Skaggs of Okmulgee and Michael and Julia Berryhill of Henryetta.

Her paternal grandparents are the late Robert and Mamie Fixico of Holdenville.

Fixico’s great great-grandparents are: the late Drennon and May Bell Hawkins Skaggs, the late Thomas and Blanch Pakoska Berryhill, the late Tom and Lily King Thompson, and the late Wadie and Fannie Factor Fixico.

Fixico enjoys dancing, looking at books, watching “Teletubbies,” and eating tosenv.



Louisa Mya Harjo

HENRYETTA — Louisa Mya Harjo celebrated her third birthday on March 12, with a Dora the Explorer theme at McDonald’s.

She is the daughter of Cassandra and Pahose Harjo of Okemah.

Those attending were: Sutv and Seth Harjo; Derek, Jacob, and Jessica Garcia; Kelly, Colton and Wyatt Cooper; Kiara, Jasmine and Elissa Bradford and Devean George.

Maternal grandparents are Eugenia (Carol) Tiger and the late Daniel “Bodee” Thompson.

Paternal grandmother is Dora Taylor and great grandmother is Lucinda Harjo.



Seth Tvstvnvkke Harjo

OKEMAH — Seth Tvstvnvkke Harjo celebrated his sixth birthday on Feb. 20 with a party at the Okemah Community Center. They had the opportunity to make their own pizza and decorate their own cupcakes.

He is the son of Cassandra and Pahose Harjo of Okemah.

Those attending were: Sutv and Seth Harjo; Derek, Jacob, and Jessica Garcia; Kelly, Colton and Wyatt Cooper; Kiara, Jasmine and Elissa Bradford and Devean George.

Maternal grandparents are Eugenia (Carol) Tiger and the late Daniel “Bodee” Thompson.

Paternal grandmother is Dora Taylor and great grandmother is Lucinda Harjo.



Asa James Mitchell

HENRYETTA — Asa James Mitchell celebrated his fourth birthday with an army theme at his home on Feb. 18 with family and friends.

He is the son of Dennis Jr. and Shannon Mitchell.

Maternal grandparents are Rev. Marvin and Sharon Lowe of Weleetka.

Paternal grandparents are Dennis Mitchell and Dinah Mitchell both of Okmulgee.

He is the great grandson of Rosanna Whitlow and the late Rev. Richard Whitlow of Dustin and Pauline Morgan and the late Dan Morgan of Okmulgee.



Silas Wayne Mitchell

HENRYETTA — Silas Wayne Mitchell celebrated his seventh birthday at Mazzio’s on March 24 with a dinosaur’s theme with family and friends.

He is the son of Dennis Jr. and Shannon Mitchell.

Maternal grandparents are Rev. Marvin and Sharon Lowe of Weleetka.

Paternal grandparents are Dennis Mitchell and Dinah Mitchell both of Okmulgee.

He is the great grandson of Rosanna Whitlow and the late Rev. Richard Whitlow of Dustin and Pauline Morgan and the late Dan Morgan of Okmulgee.



WEDDING

Mayhew and Miller exchange vows

HENRYETTA — Whitney Mayhew and Timothy Miller were united in marriage March 17 at Grace Wedding Chapel with Pastor Dale Litsey presiding.

Whitney is the daughter of Frank and Marsha Mayhew of Okmulgee. She is currently employed with the Muscogee (Creek) National Council as a secretary.

Timothy is the son of Jim and Caroline Miller of Morris. He is currently employed with Duck Creek Casino.

A reception followed the ceremony at the chapel. The couple will reside in Okmulgee.



MUSCOGEE PEOPLE

Valeria Littlecreek

OKLAHOMA CITY — Valeria Littlecreek has been selected as the new Director of Tribal Affairs for the Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE). Despite the fact there is no longer Johnson O’Malley (JOM) money coming through the department, it is vitally important to continue building bridges between the OSDE and the 39 Tribes of Oklahoma.

Littlecreek has a wealth of experience and has served in a variety of roles with Indian Education programs for the past 30 years. She has worked in education since 1975.

Some of her most notable previous experiences include serving as Director of Indian Education at Strother Public Schools, Director of Indian Education Program for Okemah Public Schools and Seminole Bi-lingual Program Director at East Central University in Ada. At East Central, she helped develop curriculum materials in the Creek-Seminole Language for schools in that specific program. She also has extensive experience teaching Native American Culture classes; conducting workshops on teaching Native American children and developing program and curriculum materials for the Creek Nation Summer School. She has worked with the JOM program, Title V-C and Title IV-A; and maintained compliance of rules and regulations in Indian Education programs. She is a former classroom teacher and school guidance counselor.

With her experience as a liaison between schools and Native American communities, Littlecreek, looks forward to serving and working with Oklahoma Tribes and Oklahoma Schools.

Littlecreek is the daughter of Christine Henneha of Okemah.



ACCOMPLISHMENT

Bettina Beaver

TULSA — Bettina Beaver is a graduate of Memorial High School.

Beaver is the daughter of Tina Tarpalechee of Morris and the granddaughter of the late Henry and Elizabeth Tarpalechee of Okmulgee.

She has maintained a 3.0 GPA throughout her high school years. She is a member of the “Who’s Who Among High School Students.”

Bettina is a member of Big Cussetah United Methodist Church in Morris and also attends Victory Christian Center in Tulsa.

Bettina plans to attend Connors State College in the fall to pursue her associates degree in science and will transfer to Oral Roberts University to pursue a minor in Psychology and a bachelors in Pastoral Care/ Counseling.



Tai Keawphalouk

SHAWNEE — Tai Keawphalouk received a superior rating on her piano solo during the National Federation Junior Festival held at Oklahoma Baptist University on March 25.

He is the son of Yotin and Clara Mae Keawphalouk of Seminole.

He is a member of the Keynotes Club.

Tai is the grandson of the late George and Hattie Alexander of Lamar.



Ricardo C. Johnson

OKLAHOMA CITY — Ricardo C. Johnson received the faculty honor roll for the third quarter at Dove Science Academy, a charter school for the sciences where he is in the eighth grade.

He is the son of Marvin E. Johnson, Jr., and the great-great grandson of the late Jeannetta Barnett Johnson of Beggs.



Adam Sloan

SAPULPA — Adam Sloan is a freshman at Sapulpa Junior High School, where he participates in the Junior Reserve Officer Training Course (JROTC) program.

Adam is the only freshman to accomplish the JROTC shooting team. The team placed third in Colorado Springs in March at Western Region Finals for JROTC.

He was invited to Nationals at Ft. Benning, Georgia over spring break. Sloan did not place at this event but shot his personal best there.

He is the son of Sydney and Paula Andrews. Sloan is of Euchee, Choctaw, and Creek descent.





# Creek newswriter looks back in time

"I had an excellent staff that knew whom I believed understood the department's mission."

By **GERALD WOFFORD**  
MNN Staff Writer

MANSFIELD, Texas — In the illustrious history of this newspaper, the *Muscogee Nation News*, it's always nice from time to time to look back from where it came from. After all, everything that is built has a foundation, and Native Americans are especially fond of remembering the past.

So it is with that note that this writer takes a little time out and shares some history of this unique tribal newspaper and its staff, one in particular, a gentleman by the name of Tommy Cummings.

I first came to know Tommy in July of 1990, Tommy was the manager of the Creek Nation Communications department then and gave me my first chance of being involved with the tribal newspaper and communications overall.

Other managers have since taken the position, such as Jim Wolfe, and Stephanie Berryhill, but Tommy was the first one I came to know and it was a different world back then. The first George Bush was President and America was preparing for its first Iraqi war. But closer to home, the first modern day Muscogee (Creek) Principal Chief Claude Cox was still holding that title.

Today, Tommy lives in Mansfield, Texas, a suburb just northeast of Dallas with his wife, Brigitte and son, Beaumont. Tommy is a man who fills many hats, as he is the senior copy editor, assistant city editor, and executive editor in the community division of the *Ft. Worth Star-Telegram* newspaper. Tommy also works as the editor of the newspaper's web site.

But it was an earlier experience with his father and uncle that helped motivate Tommy to write. "My dad was an avid OU fan," remembers Tommy. "We lived off State Highway 9, so it was an easy 90-minute drive to Norman. He had game programs from the great teams in the 1950s, and I always thought the experience of sitting with 80,000 cheering people was a rush. My sophomore year in high school, my uncle took me to an OU football game. We went through the stadium gate next to where the media took the press box elevator. It struck me that these people were actually getting paid to write. That piqued my interest even more. Before my senior year in school, I participated in a research program through Creek Nation. A judge for the project evaluated my article and told me that I had a knack for writing, which was encouraging. So being worthless at hard labor, I figured writing was one way to experience the world. It was the best of both worlds: I get to rubberneck at news or sports events, and get paid for it."

Tommy will be the first to tell anyone he was reared in Hanna, Oklahoma. After high school, Tommy went to Eastern Oklahoma State College in Wilburton and the University of Oklahoma.

Tommy would then be introduced to tribal journalism. "I worked at Creek Nation twice," says Tommy. "The first time was in 1980, right after college. I worked for about nine months as a communications specialist and editor of the paper, after a few months at the *Henryetta Free-Lance*. I worked at Creek Nation again in 1990-1991, as communications manager." Not only being introduced to tribal journalism, Tommy would also be introduced to tribal politics. "Working at Creek Nation the second time around was a great study of politics on several levels. I had an excellent staff, whom I believed understood the department's

mission. We covered the tribe's three branches on a variety of platforms (print and electronic), and I'm glad to see the staff there today continuing that effort."

To visit with Tommy now is like a walk through a true newspaper man's life, though it has been mainly sports that has kept Tommy in journalism. "The first time I left Creek Nation, I worked at the *Muskogee Phoenix* where I became the youngest sports editor (24 years old) in the paper's history," recalls Tommy. "I was sports editor for about seven years, was a Heisman Trophy voter for a few years and covered eight bowl games, the PGA Championship, several NFL games and college football and basketball games from Nebraska to Texas."

The *Muskogee Phoenix* was owned by Gannett at that time and a unique opportunity arose for Tommy. "I participated in the USA Today loaner program, in which editors at Gannett-owned papers spent a three-month stint at the national paper in Washington. Gannett housed us in Washington D.C., which was a great experience and a great opportunity to network with other editors. *Gannett News Service* offered me a job at the Washington bureau, but I turned it down, which was probably a bad move. A few months later, I transferred to the *Arkansas Gazette* (another Gannett newspaper) in Little Rock, which was locked in a major newspaper battle. I missed Oklahoma, so I came back to Muskogee as an assistant city editor before taking my second job at Creek Nation."

The staff at the Creek Nation Communications department back then consisted of Anita Freeman, Jim Wolfe, Stephanie Berryhill, Tommy Cummings, and myself (Gerald Wofford). The department was involved with radio and video productions, creating a radio program for the tribe. But even

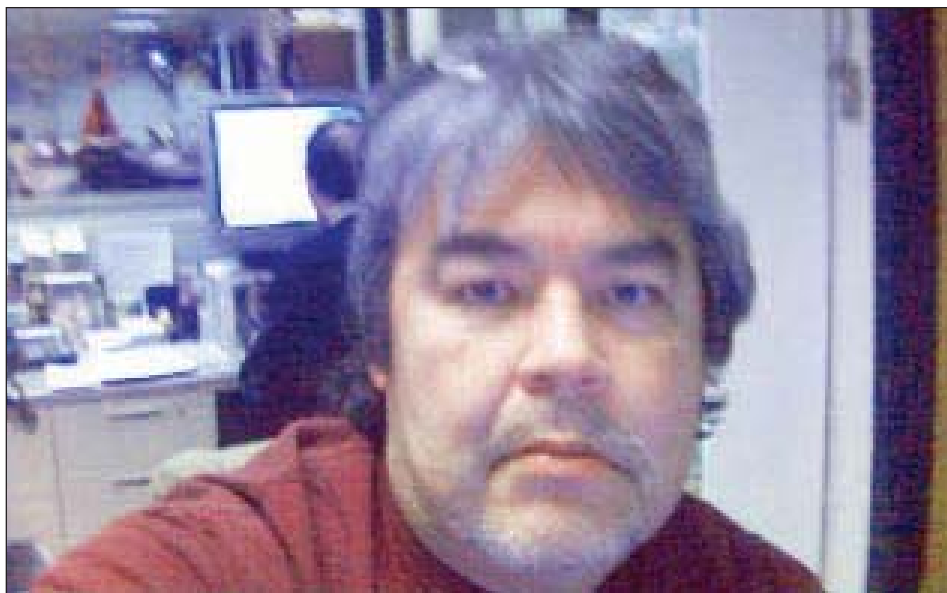
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“We covered the tribe’s three branches on a variety of platforms and I’m glad to see the staff there today continuing that effort”

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with the growth of the newspaper, radio, video productions, and print, the thought of writing for a daily mainstream newspaper still attracted Tommy. "For me, I started missing daily newspaper work, so when *The Tulsa Tribune* contacted me in 1991 for a job on the sports staff, I took it," says Tommy. "Then, the newspaper industry started listing. *The Tulsa Tribune* was the afternoon paper in a two-newspaper town and those types of newspapers don't usually survive, and it soon folded." But even with the demise of *The Tulsa Tribune*, newspaper writing was still in Tommy's future. "Just before it (Tribune) shut down, a friend of mine arranged for me to interview for a newspaper job in Richardson, Texas. I had always wanted to live in Texas, so I took the job, and in my free time, I did free-lance work for newspapers and magazines. Within nine months, the *Star-Telegram* hired me."

Texas seemed to fit Tommy and his family just right, but the idea of writing in other places looked promising as well. "In the beginning, I worked



Former Muscogee Nation News editor, Tommy Cummings (above), son, Beaumont (below, right), and wife, Brigitte (below, left).

on the copy desk for about five years, before moving to the digital side (which was just beginning)," remembers Tommy. "My wife and I worked as substitute editors at a new Knight Ridder acquisition in Monterey, California. We worked a couple of weeks



out there and visited San Francisco, where we made a mental note that one day we'd like to work there."

At the *Star-Telegram*, a management position came open in sports, so I went back to supervise some sports copy editors. I did that for nearly two years, before the *San Francisco Chronicle* (the second-largest paper in California) called. My wife and I both took jobs out there, sort of fulfilling our goal of working in that area. I wrote a sports technology column and my wife was an assignment editor for the paper's East Bay edition. I moved up to be the Night Sports Editor, supervising the night production. It was kind of fun to be this rube from Oklahoma supervising all of these editors from prestigious West Coast schools. In the beginning, I got to enjoy a lot of the Internet boom in Silicon Valley. It was a great experience. Just before we moved to California, my wife and I had bought a house in Arlington, Texas. After a couple of years, we started missing Texas — especially no state income tax — so we checked into moving back. The *Star-Telegram* hired us back, and I've since done the rounds here, working as a senior copy editor, assistant city editor, executive editor in the community newspaper division and now as a editor on the newspaper's Web site. My wife worked as an editor of the Mansfield edition before moving on to KRLD (a radio station in Dallas).

Tommy says he has been fortunate to cover some memorable sports stories. "In 1985, I covered OU's national champion game at the Orange Bowl for Muskogee and as part of the *Gannett News Service* reporting team. I also covered the Gator Bowl simultaneously, flying first to Miami the day after Christmas and catching OU players and coaches in the Fountainbleu Hotel lobby (I missed practice). I banked a lot of interviews.

I spent the night exploring the greater Miami area, then hopped a redeye flight to Jacksonville to cover Oklahoma State against Florida State. So, while I'm in Florida, I have stories coming from two bowl games. After the Gator Bowl, I fly back to Miami and cover the Orange Bowl where OU beats Penn State for the title. After that game, everyone in the OU locker room is happy, except Troy Aikman, who shoves his shoes into his locker after getting zero playing time while a freshman starts. I ask Troy if he's going to transfer, but he says he doesn't know yet. At Muskogee, I had a fun interview with Robert Reed, the Brady Bunch dad. He's from Muskogee. I interviewed JoJo White (Boston Celtics) without a notepad. I took notes on my forearm. I've interviewed most of the Oklahoma-area sports celebrities, so there's probably no "wow" factor there. I did get to interview people who had ties to Oklahoma. John York, owner of the San Francisco 49ers, grew up in Muskogee. Jim Killingsworth, the old TCU basketball coach known as 'Killer,' was from Stidham in McIntosh County."

In 1982, as a 24-year-old hayseed who barely knew anything about golf, I interviewed Jack Nicklaus. It was



the PGA Championship at Southern Hills Country Club in Tulsa. I was nervous at working such a big event. I wandered, on purpose, into a locker room, and Nicklaus came around the corner. He asked me if I was lost, and I told him no, just a reporter. He asked me who I was reporting for, and I told him Muskogee. He then sat down, took off his cleats and started singing 'Okie From Muskogee.' That broke any tension, and it was a great interview."

Besides son Beaumont, Tommy has three other children, Tommy III, Tiffany, and Timothy. Tommy also has two grandchildren Tommy IV and Tyler. Tommy tries to get back to Oklahoma as much as possible, to visit friends, and relatives. But chances are, he will write in the Lone Star state for a long time, just like he used to for the *Muscogee Nation News* long ago.



## Judge

continued from B1

ule. Judge Parker’s United States District Court would process nearly one hundred and fifty thousand cases, both civil and criminal during his twenty-one years as the Federal Judge in Fort Smith and the Indian Nations. No other United States District Judge had the caseload or worked six days per week as Judge Parker did. Twenty-one books, many articles and essays have been written about Judge Parker, and his efforts to follow the law.

At that time in the Creek Nation, entire illegal settlements were composed of clans of criminals, and locally, south of present-day Okmulgee, the Territorial town known then as ‘Spokogee’ [now named Dustin], was entirely inhabited by white train robbers and white Texas cattle rustlers made up of several large families of career criminals. After several gun battles with United States Marshals, soldiers of the U. S. Army, and each other, the criminals scattered and left Spokogee an empty town.

Silent but powerful groups involved in land speculation wanted to get their hands on the vast land holdings of the American Indian Tribes. Still secret and unnamed, these silent business groups utilized the technique known as “silent immigration”, all, contrary to the Federal laws, to destroy the local governments of the Oregon Territory, and to change the established local government of the State of Kansas prior to the War Between the States or Civil War. Those silent and still mainly secret business syndicates, knew that the United States government could not afford to stop the sneaking into any territory or established State with the intent to change the form of government into one that the business syndicates could control to their benefit.

The National Government’s actions due to The Currency Panic of 1905, only added to the rapidity of the take over of Indian Territory and the Indian Nations by the business syndicates lobbying and bribing the U.S. Congress and high government Officials.

Some railroad agents also acted contrary to Federal law, in their financing the “Silent Immigration”, unlawful as that was, into the Indian Nations or Indian Territory. Judge Parker’s actions against the criminals in the Indian Nations, fueled his awareness of the “silent illegal immigration” that caused very many problems in Texas and other Territorial areas, such as Oregon Territory, and California during the Gold Rush thirty years earlier in the history of the United States.

United States District Judge Parker would have over 200 Deputy U.S. Marshals and a Regiment of U.S. Army troops to assist him in doing his job. His Federal Courthouse was a converted Army barracks in Fort Smith, Arkansas, after the Federal Courthouse was moved from Van Buren, Arkansas to Fort Smith to be 5 miles closer to the Indian Territory.

Judge Parker would say that this was not enough help to the Federal Court’s law enforcement duty, and over sixty Marshals were killed in the line of duty. When the U.S. Supreme Court obtained control over Judge Parker’s judgments, the time period where the U.S. Supreme Court would interfere with Judge Parker by reversing his judgments in criminal cases, was soon changed by the appointment of other Justices to the U.S. Supreme Court that had much practical experience in violence and properly dealing with criminal activity.

Modern day lawyers who actually impanel juries and try cases in the Federal Courts still have to acquaint themselves with Judge Parker since his Deadlock Jury Instructions are still in use to this day, and Judge Parker with the help of the U. S. Supreme Court was highly instrumental in forming the present day law of self defense with firearms, which is unique to the World today.

The early Kings of England and

Rulers of Europe did not recognize any law of self-defense. The U. S. Constitution is based, in part, on the English Magna Charta agreement over 700 years ago in England that granted some basic rights to own and keep weapons, to have a jury trial, and own real property to English common people and the armed Barons, and other Titled headmen already owning land and weapons and would act as guarantors to the common people against the King, whose habit it was to run-over or ignore anyone else’s rights or property interests. Although a large percentage of these armed headmen or Barons had no descendants, and for their forcing the King by threat of extreme violence, to agree to basic rights for all Citizens, those leaders were permitted to keep much of their vast land holdings in Britain, and were also granted ‘tax free status’ to them and their descendants forever. Many present day Brit or Englishperson tries to trace his/her ancestry back to those long dead agreeing War Lords, on that ancient listing since the now living descendants would be excused from paying all taxes in present day England also. That old list from the year 1266 with fewer than one thousand War Lords names is called in Britain “The Doomsday List.” Those fortunate to inherit a Title such as “Sir” or “Lady” or “Duke” is automatically and by law excused from the payment of any taxes of any kind in Britain to this day. On mainland Europe, the common people would not have the right to vote, own property and own weapons until The Sun King Louis was replaced by Napoleon Bonaparte in the year 1795. Bonaparte granted all those rights to the common people he governed. He was not liked by the remaining Kings and Queens of Europe.

United States Supreme Court Justice Harlan from Kentucky and United States Supreme Court Justice Horace H. Lurton were two seasoned and experienced experts in self-defense, with much practical experience in the wild frontier areas, having been combat soldiers during the same time as Parker, but as enemy soldiers, with former soldier Harlan’s infantry platoon actually shooting the horse out from under former Rebel soldier Lurton when Justice Lurton served as a Lieutenant in Morgan’s Raiders during the Civil War.

Judge Parker lives on in the law, and he was a friend of the Creek Indians, writing two lengthy Final Orders favoring the Creek Tribe’s property rights, and enforcing the trespass or intruder laws to keep unauthorized individuals out of the Indian Territory in thousands of cases over the twenty-one years he was a United States District Judge. Two of the United States District Judge Parker’s Final Orders are important unfinished business for the Muscogee (Creek) People to this present day.

President U.S. Grant appointed Parker by the Article III Executive Appointment Powers of the Presidency, to stop the rampant crime and depredations on the Native Americans residing in the Indian Territory. Most of the unlawful intruders took the shape of poor illiterate white gutter trash law breakers on the run from the law, blacks, and other American Indians, many would claim ‘legal status’ as having ‘lawful permission’ to be present in the Indian Nations but could produce no documents to substantiate their claims to legal presence in the Indian Nations. Patrols of mounted U.S. Marshals, U.S. Army Troops and Muscogee (Creek) Lighthorsemen would escort any such intruders to the nearest boundary line of the Indian Territory when the trespassers were discovered.

Many of the illegal intruders or trespassers claimed to be in the Indian Territory by Legal right as claiming that the United States had permitted them to enter into the Indian Territory under law or Treaty or that they had purchased land in the Territory from the Federal Government. Mostly, this was untrue, as was most of the verbal reasons given by

individuals caught by the U.S. Army of United States Deputy Marshals, such individuals apprehended claiming to be members of an American Indian tribe, or the spouse of a tribal members, or having written permission of the Federal Authorities to be in the Indian Territory or claiming to be Freedmen or family members.

Some of the illegal intruders were quite talkative and had a well worded story as to why they were ‘legally’ within the Indian Territory, and some had “heard talk” of just enough law to be dangerously wrong in their story and conclusions, and of course, practically all intruders could not verify anything themselves, as required by law, since few could read or write, but trafficked in gossip and rumors most of their daily lives.

Some of the reasons given to the Hanging Judge Parker for being in the Indian Territory, for example were that the Treaty of 1866 ‘did away’ with the Indian Territory and it no longer existed. This assertion, was, of course, not true as a matter of written Federal law.

Another lawless reason, was that ‘homesteading laws’ were applicable into the Indian Territory—this, of course, was not true by the Federal law found at Section 2258 of the Revised Statutes of the United States on the Homestead Act.

Some trespassers into the Indian Territory of the Creek Indian Tribe claimed that all the Creek Indian land was now “Unappropriated land”, and therefore that anyone could move-in and claim the land. Rumors were rampant among the uneducated, and ignorant poor people looking for a free stake of land, and to escape law enforcement. Creek Indian land was now “Unappropriated land”, and therefore that anyone could move-in and claim the land. Rumors continued rampantly among the uneducated, and ignorant poor people looking for a free stake of land, and to escape law enforcement. Fort Smith, Arkansas and the surrounding area was loaded to overflowing with swindlers and confidence men, sneak thieves, defalcators and peddlers whom were constantly looking to take advantage or murder anyone regardless of race, color, creed or religious affiliation. Due to the thousands of desperate criminals flooding into the Indian Nations to escape law enforcement from other jurisdictions, the geographic area was a very dangerous place for anyone to be. Murder in broad daylight in and near Fort Smith was common before the arrival of United States Judge Parker.

Fort Holmes, Fort Coffee, Fort Davis and Old Fort Arbuckle and other military camps in the Indian Nations provided temporary resting places for U.S. Army Soldiers patrolling in the Territory. Small but efficient flat-bottomed steam powered boats normally carried 250barrels of pork, 500 barrels of flour. 100 bushels of salt, 2 tons of soap, and other supplies up the Arkansas River to the vicinity of present-day Muskogee, Oklahoma, which had formerly been the location of Fort Davis, and to supply Fort Gibson in the Indian Territory. The relatively small steam powered riverboats were approximately thirty-two feet in width and approximately one hundred and forty feet in length and had a second or upper deck, the boilers were fired by wood cut along the river bank. The steam powered engine turned dual paddlewheels. Such boats transported tremendous amounts of supplies into the Indian Nations. The steam boat that brought Judge Parker to Fort Smith was likely one of these small boats.

Any intruders that claimed to be members of the Creek Tribe or any other American Indian Tribe, but could not substantiate their claims would be escorted out of the Creek Nation by the Creek Lighthorsemen, who coordinated their duties with the U.S. Marshals and the U.S. Army Garrison in Fort Smith, Arkansas. White trespassers whose name was not on the list approving their presence by Judge Parker in the Indian Nations, were escorted out of the Indian Territory.

Blacks, if their names could not be found on the 1867 listing of Freedmen completed by U.S. Indian Agents, were escorted out of the Creek Nation. There were only approximately 1741 Freedmen on that Official Federal listing of Freedmen, and that were lawfully in the Creek Nation in the year 1867, in accordance with the Treaty of 1866 with The Creeks, which carried with the Treaty Agreement the legal presumption of approval authority in the Creek Tribe, which, when the Muscogee(Creek) Nation could not obtain complete compliance from the Federal Agents composing the identity listing, resulted in the matter of the Freedman list being laid into inactivity.

Judge Parker, in his written Order states that Black or “Colored persons who were never held as slaves in the Indian Country, but who may have been slaves elsewhere, are like other Citizens of the United States, and have no more right in the Indian Country than other citizens of the United States.”.

The threat and fear of whiskey and the men that used it was very real to common Folk of all races and creeds since many of the most vicious crimes of murder and rape were committed by an individual that was drunk or intoxicated on whiskey. It was known as “The Whiskey Menace” and the Churches preached against whiskey consumption. Judge Parker’s caseload was heavy with illegal traffic in unlicensed liquors and unlicensed whiskey peddlers not paying the Federal Tax on Liquors.

Judge Parker’s Federal Court handled the proceedings in over twelve thousand case per year, and operated six days per week.

One of his memorable Judicial Orders as to trespassers and intruders in the Indian Territory, was entered the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May, 1881, and had to do with the property rights of the Creek Tribe in over one million six hundred and seventy-five thousand acres of land in what is now north central Oklahoma. Judge Parker’s Order in this case, styled as United States vs. David L. Payne, due to Payne’s repeated unauthorized entries into the Indian Nations over several years, mainly promoting himself, David L. Payne, as a guide and for a fee would lead potential settlers to ‘free’ land. Payne advertised his services in the newspapers in Kansas, his advertisements would state that the Indian Territory was now open for settlement.

In May of 1881, Judge Parker ruled against defendant Payne, ordered him to pay a one thousand dollar fine. But the rumors persisted amongst the illiterate non-reading white gutter trash, criminals and other free loaders, misnamed ‘Boomers’ by the newspapers. Payne would send telegrams to newspapers announcing that “Indian Territory Open for Settlement” and “Free Land”. The United States government had great difficulty collecting the \$1,000.00 Dollar fine from David Payne since he had no assets other than an old mule that he rode according to the U.S. Marshals assigned to follow him, and Payne’s only verifiable job ever held was as an assistant door keeper for the U.S. House of Representatives briefly for less than one year, although he claimed to be a Civil War Hero, and Indian Fighter, investigators could never verify anything else about Mr. Payne. He died suddenly in 1884 of a disorder of the blood it was reported.

In this particular case in Judge Parker’s busy United States Court, the Judge reached his Final determination and judgment and ordered the official ruling published in the local newspapers, even though it was a civil suit by where the United States was plaintiff and a repeat intruder was the defendant, The Hanging Judge Parker, felt he should review in writing the law and the Treaties with the Creek Tribe as to Indian Territory and individual trespassers and intruders, as requested by the then Chief of the Creeks.

SEE JUDGE - B7



**WILLIS BELL**  
COWETA — Funeral services for Willis Clinton Bell were held at Wright Funeral Home.

He was born October 13, 1922.  
Bell served in WWII in Europe and North Africa with the Oklahoma 45th Division. Willis was awarded the Good Conduct Medal, American Defense Service Ribbon, EAME Service Ribbon with One Silver Star, One Bronze Star and One Bronze Arrowhead.



Bell

He was preceded in death by his wife, Virginia Faith Bell and sister, Silby.  
Survivors include: grandchildren, Tommy Uselton of Arlington, Texas, April Smith and Melissa McGinnis, both of Kansas City, Missouri; great-grandchildren and nephew, Gary Carnes of Siloam Springs, Arkansas.

**LARRY DEERE SR.**  
EUFULA — Funeral services for Larry Gene Deere Sr. were held March 24 at North Fork Baptist Church with Rev. Richmond Carr officiating and assisted by Rev. Tim Turner.  
He was born April 28, 1953 in Checotah to Dean and Lois Greenwood Deere Sr.

Deere graduated from Eufaula High School then furthered his education at Okmulgee Tech. Later he joined the National Guard Transportation Unit.  
Larry married Debbie Phillips in Canadian, Oklahoma on October 9, 1992.  
He was affiliated with West Eufaula Indian Baptist Church. Deere enjoyed coaching Little League Baseball and playing softball.  
Larry was preceded in death by his parents and three sisters, Barbara Lena, Patsy Harjo and Betty July.  
Survivors include: his wife of the home; children, Charles and Sallie Deere of Checotah, James and Kathleen Deere of Tulsa, David Phillips of Wichita, Kansas, Larry Deere Jr. and Yvette Jackson, Taiwana Deere and Joe McGirt, Sherry and Johnny McCarroll, Nickole Phillips, Jeremy Deere and Kristyn Deere, all of Eufaula; brothers, Dean Deere Jr and Dan Deere, both of Tulsa; sister, Lillian Wilson

of Okmulgee and 19 grandchildren.  
Pallbearers were: Kenny Bumgarner; Bernard Dixon; Isiah Jones; Jerry Francis; Russell and Rodney Barnett.  
Honorary pallbearers included: Tony and Gary Wilson; Rob and Kelly Deere; Lance, Michael and Jerry Lewis; Randy and George July; John Hayden; Rodney Pendergrass; Leo Flute; Jake Greenwood and Bobby Jones.  
Interment was at the McIntosh Family Cemetery.

**GWENDOLYN FACTOR-JONES**  
OKEMAH — Funeral services for Gwendolyn Sue Factor-Jones were held March 20 at Schumacher Funeral Home Chapel with Reverend Willie Pigeon officiating.  
She was born July 1, 1966 in Okmulgee to Louis and Patty Roberts Factor Jr.

Gwendolyn was a lifetime resident of the Okemah area and was a member of Nuyaka Indian Baptist Church.  
She was employed by Ruth Oil Co. as a clerk.  
Preceding her in death were her parents and husband, Louis Factor Jr.  
Survivors include son, Darryal Jones of the home and sister, Cynda L. Factor of Hugo.  
Pallbearers were: Steve Pigeon; Chris and John Leitka; Jerome, Kendall, Clinton, Caine III, Matthew, Anthony, Russell, and Paul Roberts and Anthony Coker.  
Honorary pallbearers were Matthew Factor and Cliff Creek.

**THOMAS MINYARD**  
SALEM — Funeral services for Thomas Charles Minyard were held March 6 at Salem Baptist Church with Rev. Ernie Margwarth officiating.  
He was born November 17, 1936 to Nealy Frank and Lorena Thompson Minyard.  
After graduating from Graham High School in 1955, Thomas attended Northeastern State University, before joining the Army. He served in the U.S. Army for two years, 11 months and 29 days.  
Thomas later worked as a lineman for an electric company for over thirty years in addition to being a farmer/rancher.  
He loved to travel, hunt and fish, go camping, and spend time with his family and friends.  
Minyard was preceded in death by: his parents; brother, Jerry Minyard; sister, Bessie Minyard; two nephews; maternal grandparents, Thomas and Martha Fields

Thompson and paternal grandparents, Charles and Lizzie Minyard.  
Survivors include: son, Jonathan Minyard of the home; brother, Anthony Minyard of Salem; three sisters, Lou Jo Kinney of Salem, Charlena Dunlap of Beggs and Sue Allen of Tahlequah; one uncle; one aunt; nephews; nieces; and a host of other family and friends.  
Casketbearers were: Perry and Curry Blankenship; Lendy and Mark Allen; Terry Minyard and C.T. Lewis.  
Honorary casketbearers included: Wayne Pippen; Bill Dodge; Bill and Shepherd; Will Fry; Joe Max Peavler; Billy Ray and Dee Taber.  
Interment was in the Salem Cemetery, southeast of Henryetta.

**RICHARD SIMPSON**  
WETUMKA — Funeral services for Richard Simpson were held March 24 at Salt Creek Indian Baptist Church with Rev. George Harjochee and Rev. Eugene Whitlow officiating.  
He was born January 25, 1952 in Tahlequah to Euna and Susie Scott Simpson.  
Richard was raised in Yeager, Oklahoma where he attended school. After school, he entered into the United States Army serving during Vietnam.  
Following his discharge he attended Seminole Junior College where he received an Associates Degree. He later attended East Central University where he received a degree in Human Resources and Social Work.

Simpson was employed by Creek Nation Family Services as a social worker specializing as a Family Treatment Specialist. He previously worked with Creek and Chickasaw Tribes in their housing programs.  
He was a member and chairman of the Alabama Tribal Town Governing Committees and the Economic Development Board. Richard enjoyed Tribal Town activities.  
Simpson was also a member of the First Indian Baptist of Holdenville, where he taught Sunday School. He was also associated with the Salt Creek Indian Baptist Church. His hobbies included golf, softball and spending time with his children.  
He was preceded in death by: his father; brother and one sister.  
Survivors include: wife, Lucinda of the home; 5 children, Aaron Simpson of Hawaii, Isaac Simpson of Holdenville, Jacob, Joshua and Kyra Simpson, all of the home; granddaughter; mother; brother, Edward Simpson of Oklahoma City; sev-

eral aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, other relatives and many friends.  
Interment was at the Salt Creek Cemetery.  
**MILLER TIGER**  
OKEMAH — Funeral services for Miller James Tiger were held March 8 at Schumacher Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Ray Breeding officiating.  
He was born March 6, 1941 in Muskogee to Okfuskee and Liza Holuby Tiger.

Miller attended schools locally before moving away to Philadelphia, Mississippi.  
Tiger had been a restaurant cook for most of his life.  
He was preceded in death by: his parents; brother, B.G. Belcher and sister, Donna Girdner.  
Survivors include: sons, Anthony and Noel Tiger, both of Oklahoma City; daughter, Angela Carrasco of Oklahoma City; brother, Eddie Tiger of Sapulpa and two sisters, Donna Scott and JoAnn Belcher, both of Tulsa.  
Interment was at Salt Creek Cemetery in Wetumka, Oklahoma.

**TOMMY WILSON**  
DUSTIN — Funeral services for Tommy Lamont Wilson were held March 25 at the Dustin Cemetery with Rev. J.B. Fish officiating.  
He was born July 30, 1950 in Weleetka to Orvil and Josie Helen Watts Wilson.  
Thomas spent his early years in the Weleetka and Dustin area. He later moved to Berryhill with his family where he attended school.

As a young man, he served in the United States Army serving in the Vietnam Conflict.  
In 1972, following his discharge, he married Kathy Zona.  
He owned and operated Wilson Labor Service in Tulsa for many years.  
Wilson's hobbies included: building birdhouses; hiking; taking pictures of wildlife and working outside. He loved the outdoors.  
Preceding him in death were his father and one brother.  
Survivors include: his mother; 3 children, Damen Gash, Tommy Wilson and Joni Wilson, all of Berryhill; sister, Teresa; 2 grandsons; several aunt, uncles, nieces, nephews, other relatives and many friends.  
Pallbearers were: David Phillips; Damen Gash; Tommy Wilson; Joni Wilson and friends.

Judge continued from B6

The following writing, in the United States Judge's own words, was why the Federal law prohibited the settlement of anyone other than Native American Indians on the particuland Of the Treaty Agreement between the Creeks and The President of 7<sup>th</sup> August 1856:  
EXCERPTED FROM THE ORDER OF BY U.S. District Judge Parker: The lands in controversy are a part of those which were by the Treaty of the 14 of February 1833, made with the Creeks, set apart to them. By the Treaty of the 7<sup>th</sup> of August, 1856, made between the United States of America and the Creeks, they conveyed these lands to the Seminoles, provided, however that the same should not be sold or otherwise disposed of without the consent of both Tribes legally given. The Seminoles, by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Article of the Treaty made between them and the United States, March 21, 1866, provided as follows: "In compliance with a desire of the United States to locate other Indians and Freedmen thereon, the Seminoles cede and convey to the United States their entire domain, being the tract of land ceded to the Seminole Indians by the Creek Nation under the provisions of Article I, Treaty of the United States with the Creeks and Seminoles, made and conceded at Washington, D.C., August 7<sup>th</sup>, 1856."  
The Creeks, by the Seventh Ar-

ticle of the Treaty of June, 1866, consented to this cession by The Seminoles.  
To my mind this language used in the 3rd Article of the Seminole Treaty amounts to a conveyance of the title of land described to the United States. But the fact that the title of the land is in the United States does not necessarily make it that part of the public domain which is subject to settlement by citizens of the United States under the homestead and pre-emption laws, because these laws are explicit, and any lands which have been reserved by any Treaty, Law, or Proclamation of the President, are no part of the public lands of the United States subject to these laws so long as such reservation continues, and when any part of the public lands have been once lawfully reserved, that reservation cannot be set aside except by a clear and explicit act of the lawful authority, showing thereby clearly a purpose to open to settlement, by the citizens, of the land reserved. It will be seen that Oklahoma is government land, and that no Tribe of Indians have any interest in these lands, but that the government reserved them for the purpose of locating Indians and Freedmen thereon, and therefore the law has the same application to them that it does to Indian Reserves.  
The Court further says: "Now, in the estimation of many persons, it may be desirable to open this country to settlement. If so, it must be done by the power that has a right under the Consti-

tution and Laws of the country to do it."  
May 2, 1881 signed: United States District Judge Issac C. Parker Many of the local newspapers in Kansas, Arkansas and the Territories published The Order of Judge Parker in an attempt to put everyone on notice of the law.  
Judge Parker had standing orders for the U. S. Army to remove by force any individual found in the Indian Territory not having the legal right to be in the Indian Territory, this included all types and manner of individuals claiming to be Indian, white tradesmen and peddlers, or individuals claiming to be Freedmen.  
Lighthorsemen Connell Rogers actually burned down a shack put up by illegal Intruders, in late fall of the year 1884, which resulted in the illegal intruder demanding that the Lighthorse policeman be criminally charged in Federal Court. Judge Parker, still having jurisdiction over the particular real estate, it being within the Indian Nations or Territory which was Judge Parker's original grant of jurisdiction, where the building was burned by law enforcement officers, took charge of the case and found no crime had been committed since the building was erected illegally by known criminals and was used to further illegal activity and trespassing. Followers of illegal Intruder Payne, called 'Boomers' by the news media, since at that time "boom" met to run an advertisement in the newspaper, went to the newly created Federal District Court in Kansas and tried to have

the Lighthorseman prosecuted for the crime of arson, but Judge Parker's superior jurisdiction over the area of the burned out trespasser's shack rescued the Lighthorseman Connell Rogers when Rogers went to Judge Parker's District Court asking for legal action to stop the prosecution by Federal authorities in Kansas.  
Judge Parker obliged and issued his Official Order to stop the prosecution of Lighthorseman Rogers based on the law. The case is known as Ex Parte Rogers.  
The admonishment of United States District Judge Issac Charles Parker in his Order, to follow the Treatys and the Laws, has by implication left unfinished business for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, due to the manner in which the extinguishment of Creek Tribal ownership was conducted by the United States authorities, and others contrary to law.  
Author: A member of Muscogee (Creek) Tribe, an Attorney, completed The College Of Law, University of Oklahoma, in Norman, Oklahoma, 1982; Note Editor of The American Indian Law Review in Graduate School; completed the Bachelor of Science Degree at Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma 1969. A Federal Officer, now retired, Commissioned by The President via the U.S. Army R.O.T.C. at O.S.U., Stillwater, Oklahoma.



HOT CORNER

by

JASON SALSMAN

I've always looked at the Hot Corner column as sort of a blank canvas, an avenue for me to use every month to maybe reflect on the past 30 days in sports and some of the achievements and monumental occasions that may or may not have happened in that time span. Or to look ahead at the coming months and what stories the future holds that will unfold before our eyes in the world of sports. Sometimes I use it to praise the actions and accomplishments of the greatest athletes and teams, but other times I can use it to vent some frustration. Time to vent!

For those of you in this state living under a rock, Oklahoma basketball coach Kelvin Sampson has taken over the reins of Indiana's proud basketball program. As a fan of Oklahoma basketball, I couldn't be more thrilled. While Kelvin would seem to have taken a step up in his career, I think the more telling revelation is that Indiana has taken a step back. From the minute the hiring was announced, it has been scrutinized. Questioned by everyone from distinguished Hoosier alumni to the ESPN "experts," all saying the same thing; "Is this really the best they could get?" The answer is definitely no.

I know the guy, I have had to put up with offensive ineptitude for 12 years. As an OU basketball fan, I have cringed at the sight of lost leads more times than I care to sit here and recount. During Sampson's tenure at OU, scoring droughts were as common as seeing his denim shirt on the sidelines. For those of you out there that believe his physical, hard-nosed, defense and rebounding style of play will work well in the Big Ten, you haven't paid much attention to college basketball. That same style of play was the MO of the Big 12 and let me tell you, one regular season title in 12 seasons is not cutting it in Indiana. Indiana is a basketball first school and being complacent and comfortable with just getting into the NCAA Tournament and not doing any damage while there will not be acceptable. I love Sooner Nation, but I think our fans shouldn't act like Kelvin hung the moon during his time in Norman. It's like we just accepted mediocrity. I mean, can you imagine what Hoosier fans would do if Sampson racked off four straight opening round losses in the tournament? Probably wouldn't sit too well with them, especially when the teams you're losing to are lower seeds. He did have a Final Four team, but that team was fortunate to only play one legit team (Arizona) on it's way to Atlanta. And when the Sooners got there Sampson's team had it made. They were matched up with upstart Indiana while the big boys were on the other side. Cake walk to the finals right? Wrong! Sampson, in what was a common downfall for OU hoops, was massively out coached by a guy named Mike Davis. Mr. Davis is now gone from Indiana because he didn't measure up to the standards that the fans in Bloomington have come to expect. It's not getting any better Indiana, in fact I think there are some dark days ahead.

Speaking of dark days ahead, I forget to even mention that by leaving, Kelvin is basically trying to run away from the mess he has left at OU. Joe Castiglione now not only has to go before the NCAA infractions committee for Kelvin's recruiting violations this month but he has to do it while searching for the right man to lead his basketball program. Hey Joe, good luck finding a guy that wants to jump into a probation mess. But hey, if there's one guy that can do it, it's Joe C. Don't forget he did bring in a hot-shot coordinator without any head coaching experience to "feed the monster" and I think football has done just fine. Until next time.....

Creek girl is part time singer and fighter

BY GERALD WOFFORD  
MNN Sports Reporter

WETUMKA — Opening day for the third annual March Madness Basketball Tournament, excitement is at a fast break pace as Native American teams from states like Arizona, Mississippi, and Florida are ready to show off their stuff.

To open the festivities, 16 year old Taylor Osborn, sang the National Anthem. Singing is nothing new to the young Muscogee (Creek) talent, Osborn has performed in front of crowds in Nashville and Orlando, to name a few. She has sung the musical gamut from gospel, pop, and to country. In March of 2003, Osborn was selected as 'Entertainer of the Year' and 'Vocalist of the Year' in Traditional Country in Pigeon Force, Tennessee where she represented the Country Music Singers Association (CMSA) of Del City, Oklahoma. The next year, Osborn was selected to entertain at the 'First Americans in the Arts' in Los Angeles.

At the tournament the rendition of the Star Spangled Banner is well received, Osborn has performed well again. From the center of attention in the musical ring, Osborn will now enter another ring, the boxing ring.

Osborn has taken up the sport of the sweet science and works out in her hometown of Wetumka, Oklahoma. An abandoned theatre has been transformed into a boxing gymnasium. Osborn is not the only fighter who trains here, several young pugilists are also in training for their next bout. The whole idea of a gym was created by Pastor Darrell (Bo) Gibbs of First Assembly of God in Wetumka.

Gibbs opened the gym in the summer of last year. Gibbs uses the sport as a teaching tool, a way to build discipline for his young pupils, not only physically, but spiritually as well. "We're raising up good men and women," says Gibbs. "It (boxing) has impacted my life and we want to implant a positive outlook for the kids that come here. There are other ways to deal with frustrations, plus the kids have a chance to talk with counselors here." It was also Gibbs's brainchild to create a boxing team from the area, the unique group is called 'Everlasting Life' and is a amateur unit



Taylor Osborn trains before a big fight at a gym in Wetumka.

sponsored by the Oklahoma Association of USA Amateur Boxing, Inc.

"My pastor and coach asked me to try out and I just loved it," says Osborn. "Just the atmosphere, and I love working on the speed bag."

Unlike other bracket sports such as softball or basketball, a boxing tournament will not always guarantee an opponent. Case in point was the Riverside Tournament in Anadarko in which Taylor trained really hard for. In fact, this was to be her debut in the ring. As all fighters do, their is an official weigh-in to make sure each entry is fighting at the proper weight. Osborn arrived four hours early for the weigh-in and waited to draw an opponent, none came and a three-hour drive turned into an even longer day. But Osborn didn't get down too much, while there, she sang the National Anthem and prepared for the Bristow tournament the next month. Again the process was the same, and unfortunately, the waiting game turned into another opponent not showing up, the Creek athlete was beginning to wonder if she would ever get a chance in the ring at all?

But the time to 'put up' would finally arrive for the Creek entertainer/fighter. On March 25, 'Everlasting Life' hosted its own tournament with Osborn drawing an opponent. Would she be ready this time? Hitting a bag is one thing, actually hitting a human being is another. "Her approach to everything is the same," says her mother, Thomasine, "She works out hard." This was evidenced by one Saturday in which Osborn, who is also a cheerleader at Wetumka High School, worked out at the gym, played 3 games with a softball team that she pitches for and then traveled to Tulsa to sing with a Gospel band that she is a member of. Boxing also is physically demanding and Osborn enjoys staying in shape.

The fight, which went the distance of 3 rounds, did not go Osborn's way by decision, but a May 13th home tournament and another at Riverside will continue to prove Osborn's hard work and willingness to belt out the tunes and belt out opponents whether it's in front of a microphone or inside a boxing ring.

March Madness 2006 a mad success

BY JASON SALSMAN  
MNN Reporter

HENRYETTA — Over 2,000 spectators filed into the Henryetta High School gym over the course of three days for the Third Annual All-Indian March Madness Tournament.

The tournament, which was conceived by 4 Love of the Game organization, was bigger and better than ever with more great teams, more great athletes and more exciting basketball action. Awards, trophies and academic scholarships were just a few of the items being handed out over the weekend to these special Native athletes from over six different states.

Both championship games provided drama as two-time girl's MVP Angel Goodrich and the Hot Tamales claimed the gold ball in the girl's tournament final over Oklahoma signee Jenna Plumley and the Comanche Nation. The game was back and forth from the tip with each star trying to will their team to victory. In the end, the balanced attack of the Hot Tamales was too much for

their opponent.

In the boy's championship, the Oklahoma Indians squared off against the Sooner Storm in what was one of the most anticipated match-ups of the entire tournament. Oklahoma Indians guard and tournament MVP James Bible got hot from beyond the arc and that was all they needed to finish off the Storm and take home the trophy.

In the girl's consolation game, it was All-Tournament team member Misty Haley and the Sooner Stars ending an impressive tournament run by the Awesome Ones from

San Carlos, Arizona. The Stars had many weapons but had to fight to hold off the scrappy squad from out west.

In the boy's consolation, it was coach Tim Comby and the Rez Dog Warriors from Choctaw, Mississippi taking home 3rd place with a win over The Set. The Warriors' tenacity and quickness negated the superior size of The Set, and insured victory for the visitors.



Aaron Grant goes up for the slam dunk over Mitchell Tilley.

The games were not the only thing providing the excitement over the weekend, however. A 3-point, slam dunk and team ball contest were also a part of the weekend's festivities and all had a huge part in bringing the crowd to its feet. Although there were some nice dunks, including one where a participant jumped over another for a flush, the slam dunk event was owned by Virgil and Mitchell Tilley of Wewoka. Working together to provide acrobatic moves that would make trapeze artists jealous, the Tilley's got more oohs and ahhs from the crowd than a fireworks display would have and won the dunk contest.

In the girl's 3-point contest, Jenna Plumley showed why she hit close to 40% of her 3-point shots this year, winning the contest for the second consecutive year.

It was not a repeat performance in the boy's contest this year as a new champion was crowned. Jordan Parnacker of Oklahoma City outlasted the other sharpshooters to claim the title.

In team ball, it was all Frontier as James Bible and Jenna Plumley torched the nets and took home the award.

The weekend was wrapped up on Sunday with the awards banquet and presentation of scholarships held at Henryetta High School.





Woodson displays Creek art on Gourds



Creek Nation Casino-Tulsa Promotions for April



La Margaritas restaurant opens in Okmulgee



# First Americans in the Arts announces honors in television, film, and music

BEVERLY HILLS, California – On Saturday, March 25, 2006, First Americans in the Arts (FAITA) presented the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual First Americans in the Arts Awards Presentation honoring Native Americans for their outstanding performances in motion pictures, prime-time television, theatre and music in 2005.

The event included a silent auction, reception and dinner along with the awards show which was held at the Beverly Hilton, located at 9876 Wilshire Boulevard, Beverly Hills, CA 90210.

The event began at 6:00 p.m. with a reception and silent auction, featuring American Indian art, jewelry and movie memorabilia.

The awards ceremony gave attendees a first-hand look at the star-studded awards presentation attended by leading film and television stars, both American Indian and non-Indian, including Tyler Christopher (Choctaw/Seneca) and Natalia Livingston (ABC's General Hospital), Rick Schroder (Strong Medicine) and many more. Among this year's recipients were Humanitarian award winners, ABC Entertainment and Extreme Make-over: Home Edition for their two hour season finale, "The Piestewa Family."

Other award recipients included "The New World's", Q'Orainka Kilcher and August Schellenberg (Mohawk), "Into the West's" Tyler Christopher (Choctaw/Seneca), Zahn McClarnon (Hunkpapa Lakaota Sioux), Tonantzin Carmelo (Tongva/Mexica), Nakotah LaRance (Hopi) and "Edge of America's" Chris Eyre (Cheyenne-Arapaho) for directing and Delanna Studi (Cherokee) for Outstanding Supporting Actress. Also honored for "Lifetime Musical Achievement" was Link Wray (Shawnee), the

"Legacy Award" went to Roy Track (Assiniboine Sioux) and "Outstanding Achievement in Technical Arts" was presented to Stephanie Stonefish Ryan (Lenni Lenape) for her work in Cinematography.

Tony Award Winning Actress,

World, TNT's "Into the West" and Showtime's "Edge of America."

The event featured traditional and contemporary performances by Native American performers including the Native American Music Award's Female Artist of the Year, Jana as well as

esses was Muscogee (Creek) Nation's own Lacey Montemayor, Miss Indian Oklahoma City, as well as Cassie Thomas (Seneca) Miss Indian World and Heather Miranda (Pala Band of Mission Indians), Miss Sherman Indian High School.

On hand behind the scenes was Selina Jayne-Dorman (Creek) who flew out to Los Angeles to help as Associate Director of the awards show. Selina was one of the original co-founders of the organization and continues to participate in the annual event. Also on hand was Bob Hicks (Creek/Seminole), producer of the awards show. Bob is a graduate of the American Film Institute and the original founder and chairman of the board of trustees for First American in the Arts. Selina stated that after fourteen years it's still a fun and exciting event!

"I thought this year was one of the best! The entertainment was great and it seems like the show just gets better every year. I'm proud of all our recipients and the people putting it all together to honor our own!"

Jayne worked for many years in Hollywood as an actress and make-up artist. She now resides in Eufaula, Oklahoma where she owns her own make-up business. Jayne is employed in the Executive Director's office at Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

Founded in 1991, First Americans in the Arts (FAITA) is a nonprofit trust created to recognize, honor and promote American Indian participation in the entertainment industry. Scholarships are also given out to students pursuing careers in film, television and theatre.

For more information please call (310)270-5388 or write [www.firstamericans.org](http://www.firstamericans.org).



Award Honorees-(L to R ) Quese IMC, Tonantzin Carmelo, Wes Studi, and Q'Orainka Kilcher are all smiles after receiving awards at the 14th Annual First American in the Arts Awards Ceremony held recently in Los Angeles, California.

Kristin Chenoweth (Cherokee) was the recipient of two awards for her roles in NBC's "The West Wing" as well as Sony/Columbia Pictures' "Bewitched."

Wes Studi's made his fifth appearance as Master of Ceremonies.

This often intimidating but charismatic and ruggedly handsome actor, is best known for performances such as the fiercely angry Magua in "The Last of the Mohicans" and the title character in Walter Hill's biopic, "Geronimo: An American Legend". Studi recently appeared in New Line Cinema's "The New

Oklahoma's own Quese IMC (Pawnee/Seminole), known for his "Native Hip Hop" who also won "Outstanding Musical Achievement. An excerpt from the Autry's Native Voices stage play "The Red Road" was performed by Arigon Starr (Creek/Kickapoo).

The traditional dance performances included the Hoop, Fancy Shawl and a Men's Fancy Dance Exhibition. The evening's entertainment is being sponsored by the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community.

Also on hand as the Award Host-

## Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian seeks film entries

NEW YORK - The Film and Video Center of the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian seeks submissions for the 13th Native American Film and Video Festival to be held Nov. 30 - Dec 3, 2006.

The festival features films, videos, and radio programs of all genres, as well as web projects and CD-ROMS, from North, Central and South America, and Hawaii. The festival showcases productions by Native media makers, community projects, and works reflecting Native perspectives, and brings together participants from the four directions for screenings, workshops and special events. All programs are free to the public.

Works will be chosen by a selection team, made up of Native American

media makers and cultural activists and the program staff of the Film and Video Center.

When submitting more than one work, each title must have its own submission form, agreement form, tapes,

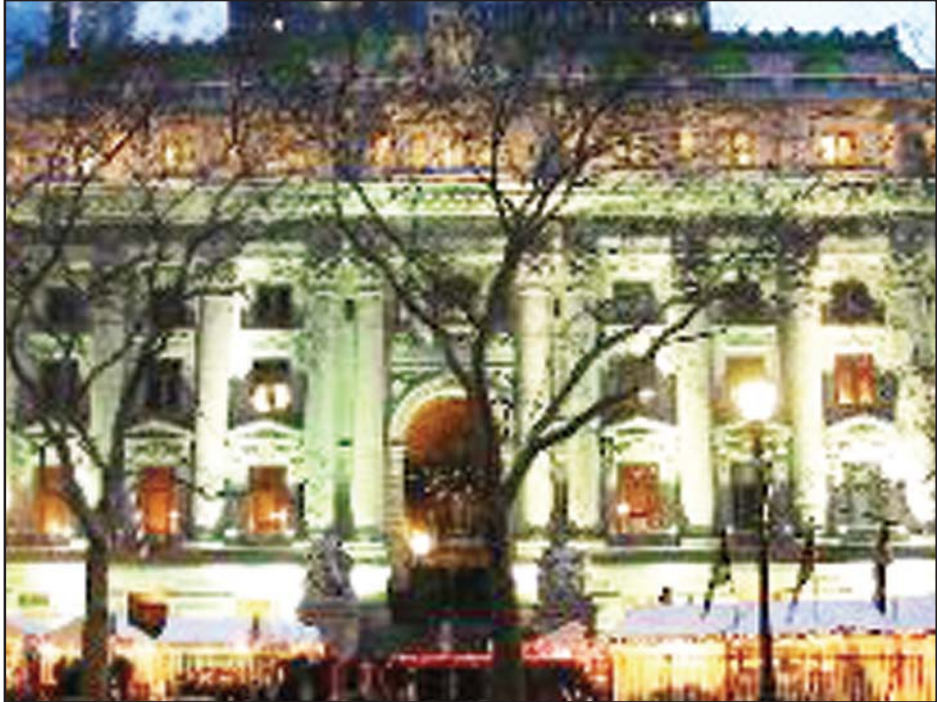
will select and invite all productions and media-makers at their discretion. Those selected will be notified via e-mail, and or phone on or about August 1, 2006. Do not call the office for the status of your entry.

Entries not selected will be notified via regular mail by the end of August 2006.

If you have an inquiry outside of your entry status, send your questions to the office by e-mail at [FVC@si.edu](mailto:FVC@si.edu) or fax to (212) 514-3725.

All submissions must be sent prepaid including any applicable customs fees to: 13th Native American Film + Video Festival, Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, One Bowling

Green, New York, NY 10004. For more information call (212) 514-3737 or e-mail at [www.nativenetworks.si.edu](http://www.nativenetworks.si.edu).



Smithsonian National Museum in New York

DVDs or CD (for radio and multimedia.) Do not send a compilation video or DVD.

The selection team of the festival

## Special activities announced for Creek Festival

OKMULGEE-The Creek Council House Museum has announced two special activities to be held in downtown Okmulgee for the Creek Festival, held June 16-18. A dress contest will be held Saturday, June 17 prior to the Creek Festival Parade. Also, organizers wish to announce the "Hooptie Car" competition will also be held on Saturday, June 17.

Both events will be held prior to the Creek Festival Parade, and all "Hooptie Car" entrees will be invited to participate in the parade.

Also, the Creek Council House Indian Art Festival will be going at the Historic Creek Council House Museum that day.

More information will be available soon on these and other special events.

For more information, you may contact David Anderson, Deana Heard, or Curator Ted Isham at the Creek Council House Museum, 756-2324, or email at [creekmuseum@sbcglobal.net](mailto:creekmuseum@sbcglobal.net).

The Creek Council House Museum is open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 to 4:30.





**Ted Isham**  
Creek Council House Museum Curator

OKMULGEE — In the last several articles from the Creek Council House Museum we’ve been talking about preservation — a topic at the very core of why there are museums. Preservation is the act of preserving or keeping for as long as possible an object of significance. This object, or artifact, can be of a historical nature, a significant cultural icon or place, or even something intangible, such as culture and language.

An organizing basis that allows for a Native group to apply for federal recognition is the ability to show historic presence and cultural distinctiveness. Without documentation to support the identity of a group in the ‘eyes’ of the United States Federal Government, the group is not considered a federally recognized Indian tribe. It becomes evident that to be “Indian” here in America, a need exists to maintain a cultural and linguistic presence. It is imperative that preservation measures be instituted immediately to save what may be a diminishing resource, native languages. Preserving native languages is equally as important as putting physical artifacts in a museum setting. What is being done to help the situation in our Muscogee Nation?

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation has been in the ‘eye’ of history ever since contact with the first Europeans in 1521 with Hernando DeSoto and his band of Spanish soldiers. DeSoto came through the Creek Confederacy homelands in Georgia, Florida and Alabama. Today the Muscogee (Creek) Nation is still a large, vibrant tribe with a strong government, a large population base and economic growth in many areas. Unfortunately, the Nation also has a declining number of fluent

speakers and cultural places. This is seen in the demographics with the majority of Creek speakers now older than the 50-60 year old range. This situation begs the question to be asked, ‘What will happen to our Nation as our culture and language disappear?’ Another question to be asked is, ‘Are we doing the things necessary today to insure that our children and grandchildren will have a language to speak that makes us Creek?’ Or, will our grandchildren only know English? Can we say that we are doing all that we can to help preserve and pass along this knowledge that we still have available? Are we teaching our babies to speak English or Creek? Will they be classified as *Mvskoke* (Creeks) or will they be called light-brown English speakers? Will the government then be able to extinguish us as a tribe? How have we survived for so long and how can we still survive? We can look around and even look to the past to see what others have done to forestall this loss.

As we ask ourselves these very pressing questions we can see that there are answers all around us in an Indigenous native movement of language revitalization. In late March, over 600 Native children came together to showcase their tribal heritage languages on the campus of the University of Oklahoma, Norman. Children from kindergarten to high school gathered at the Sam Noble Museum of Natural History to participate in the fourth annual Native American Youth Language Fair organized by Dr. Mary Linn, Curator of Native Languages. For two days youthful tribal groups from all over the state and country sang, danced, played games, gave speeches, and even argued in their own native languages. What a privilege to see and hear the sounds of native languages that are very old come from the mouths of modern youth. What a difference in that these young people are so proud of their language and work so hard to learn as compared to long ago when native children were punished for using their native language. Now our youth are exalted for using their native languages, but some elders, even today within our own tribe still have memories of punishment for speaking the Creek language. It is espe-

cially invigorating to see and hear our own tribal youth speaking, singing, dancing and performing in *Mvskoke emponakv*. Our youth, our children, our grandchildren, and our future should be encouraged to use the language by their elders—us, if we are to survive. How can we be of assistance in helping to preserve our language and culture? There are efforts within our own tribe that are beginning to address these issues. The Tribe has now in place the Challenge Bowl, the language department and the Head Start to teach the language to our youth. We can build on these efforts of our tribe by encouraging our own children to speak the language, not laugh at them or punish them but allow them to try. As grandparents we can give our grandchildren opportunities to be around as much of the language as possible, by taking them to our ceremonial grounds and churches where the language is spoken. We can sing to them, we can tell them bedtime stories, we can count with them and so on — the possibilities are endless.

So, grandparents call your JOM coordinator, call the Language department, call the Mvskoke College and volunteer to help in whatever way you can.

Just as there is a need to preserve our artifacts, places and history, it is just as important to preserve our culture and language. We all need to do whatever we can to help promote, preserve and perpetuate who we are in our own native language, not in some foreign tongue as English. By teaching our own native language we are teaching how to truly be *Mvskokvlke*, how to remember our elders the way they remembered their elders.

By teaching our youth these things, by preserving our language we are teaching them to remember us.

For more information call the Creek Council House Museum at 918-756-2324.

Ted Isham, Curator  
Creek Council House Museum

Matekosan makaranis  
*Mvto Cekicvkis ci!*



## Creek Council House Indian Art Festival

OKMULGEE — Saturday, June 17, the Creek Council House Indian Art Festival (CHIAF) 2006 will be held on the Creek Council House Lawn. CHIAF is a celebration of the Native American Artist in their many forms,



such as, food, song, storytelling, dance, arts, crafts and play.

The Juried Art Competition is a competition in the areas of paintings/ graphics, pottery/sculptures and traditional arts. No entry fee is necessary for this competition.

Special guest Will Hill and Jehnean Washington captivate the attention of children



and adults with enthusiastic performances of Native American storytelling.

Exhibition Stomp Dance educate the public to traditional Mvskoke culture. The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Royalty will make appearances in the parade.

The Indian Art Festival has something for everyone! Children of all backgrounds enjoy the pottery, beadwork and stickball game. A day of education, entertainment and fun for the whole family!

For more information contact the Creek Council House at (918) 756-2324.

## Display your Creek Heritage at Complex

Okmulgee — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation is now accepting Creek artifacts to exhibit in the showcases of the newly remodeled Capital Complex lobby. Call now to reserve your space. A special thanks goes to all of those who have temporarily loaned your artwork and memorabilia to the Creek Nation display cases.

For more information call Sunny Tiger at (918) 732-7823.



## Woodson expresses art on gourds

SILOAM SPRINGS, AR — Creek Artist, Debra A. Warren-Woodson has always been interested in art in one form or another. While living in the Tulsa area she attended Rogers State College and took several

art and photography classes.

Woodson took a silversmith course in order to create jewelry at Tulsa Junior College. Almost five years ago she became interested in using colored pencils. “The process is slower than other media because it takes five to ten



layers or more to finish the drawing. Its a form of glazing,” said Woodson.

She started growing gourds a couple of years ago and has been applying her artwork to the gourd surface. She uses several techniques to create gourds including acrylics, felt-tipped pens, carving, piercing, colored pencils, staining, dyeing and woodburning in different combinations to produce her art.

In 1991 Debra received Honorable Mention during a Jewelry Art Show with the Tulsa Junior College; 2001 she received second place in Colored Pencil/Brush and Palette in Grove also Honorable Mention at the Society of American Indians, Tulsa Chapter Group Show, Tulsa Community College; 2002 Exhibited colored pencil at the Ozark Arts Alliance Juried Art show in Siloam Springs, Ar.; She also competed at the Bartlesville Art Association Juried Spring Show.

## Website services offered to Creek Artists

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) has many Creek artists, displaying various techniques of art from carvings to acrylic. Showing the Creek culture and traditions through artwork will no longer be limited to local gift shops and art shows from many Creek citizens.

As a new beneficial service to Muscogee (Creek) citizens, the MCN Communications Department will be taking information from Creek artists and placing their art work on the Official website of the Muscogee Nation at [www.Muscogeenation-nsn.gov](http://www.Muscogeenation-nsn.gov) on July 1, 2006. There are no deadlines for this service and artists may submit their artwork and information at any time. This new service will be at no cost to the artist and will allow them to display their art and contact information nation wide.

“It is so important to promote our Creek artists and use their art within the tribe, their art represents our Nation, our culture and traditions,” said Claude Sumner, the Muscogee (Creek ) Nation Executive Director.

Artists such as Jon Tiger, Robert Satterfield and Mary Howard are among a few that will be displaying their work online. The artist’s contact information, artwork and biographies will be available to Creek citizens.

Renowned Creek artist, Mary Howard, will be displaying a variety of vibrant colors in her acrylic paintings. Howard focuses on the cultural and traditional aspects of the Muscogee Nation tribe, using children, elders, clan animals and other figures in her daily life as motivation and inspiration for her art work.

Much response from Creek artists have been expressed regarding the need for recognition and method to get their artwork out there in the general Creek population.

“I enjoy creating colorful paintings, but anticipate whether people will enjoy my art work or not. The website service will be a wonderful way to display Creek artists and their talents with less anticipation,” said Howard during a recent Tulsa Indian Art Festival held in February of 2006.

Artists may digitally submit their artwork, photos and biographies to [Cbrown@muscogeenation-nsn.gov](mailto:Cbrown@muscogeenation-nsn.gov) or contact the Communications Department to have their individual and artwork photos taken at no cost to them. All artists must provide a Creek roll number and picture identification or birth certificate. There are no age limits for this service.

Creek artists may include bead work, pottery, stickball making, jewelry making, painting, drawing, singing, quilting, dress making and more. A total of two pages will be allowed per artist on the Website and links to additional websites are possible upon request. Art work may be added, taken off or changed at the artist’s request as well.

This website service is designed to promote the Creek artists and their work as well as be an information tool to persons seeking general information regarding Muscogee (Creek) artists. All Creek artists are encouraged to participate in this service. If you would like more information about this service please contact Carla Brown at (918) 732-7643.



TulsaPromotions

Casino Promotions:

Casino Promotions:  
**\$100,000 SHOWERS OF CASH – PICK YOUR PAYDAY**

Creek Nation Casino realizes promotion days and times don’t always fit your schedule, so we are letting you pick your payday during “\$100,000 Showers of Cash”. Swipe in daily and choose from four different daily drawing times to place your entry. Ten winners will be selected at each drawing for \$150 in cash plus a chance to return on Thursday for weekly Grand Prize drawings and will be invited back to Finals Week. On Thursday, April 27, we will give away \$3,000, \$5,000, and \$10,000 in cash!

**IF YOU SNOOZE, YOU LOSE...**

Having trouble sleeping? Or are you a night owl? Head down to Creek Nation Casino for our new late night promotion! Swipe in at Guest Services starting at 11 p.m. every Sunday through Wednesday in April for \$150 drawings from 12 a.m. –3 a.m. and a final drawing at 4 am for \$400!

**The \$250,000 American Dream**

The life changing promotion from last year that everyone’s still talking about is back to make someone’s dream come true. Join us at Creek Nation Casino – Tulsa for the American Dream when one lucky person will win a brand new home in south Tulsa, a 2006 Hummer H3, and \$10,000 in cash on July 25! Start earning entries on May 2. (Tuesdays starting at 6 pm, May 2 – July 25)

**TORNADO TUESDAYS**

Join us at Creek Nation Casino every Tuesday for Tornado Tuesdays, featuring hourly \$1,000 cash drawings starting at 6 p.m. Receive entries by playing any Rocket machines for every \$20 deposited. If the prize is not claimed after three minutes, the \$1,000 will roll over to the next drawing. And at 10 pm each Tuesday, all money must go! (Tuesdays through April 25).

**MEN’S NIGHT - Wrangler Wednesdays**

Men, there is no better way to warm up to nicer weather than in a brand new Jeep, so don’t miss Creek Nation Casino’s “Wrangler Wednesdays.” Start swiping your Players Club cards at 6 pm for your chance at half-hour cash drawings from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. for a total of \$2,500 in cash. Plus, two lucky men each week will win \$500 and a key that could possibly start the 2006 Jeep Wrangler Unlimited on April 26. (Wednesdays starting at 6 pm, through April 26)

**LADIES NIGHT - Girls Just Wanna Have Fun**

With Creek Nation Casino’s “Girls Just Wanna Have Fun” Ladies Night promotion, you could definitely be turning some heads as you drive away in a brand new 2006 Pontiac Solstice Convertible. Join us for half-hour cash drawings from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. totaling \$2,500. And at 10 p.m., two lucky ladies will win \$500 and a key that could start the 2006 Pontiac Solstice on April 24! (Mondays, starting at 6 p.m., through April 24)

**SENIORS WAKE UP AND WIN**

Seniors, rise and shine at Creek Nation Casino Mondays and Tuesdays. From 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. our valued senior guests will receive \$5 free play and complimentary coffee and donuts. What better way to start the day than with Creek Nation Casino’s Wake Up and Win promotion.

**Cinco de Mayo - \$5 on 5/5**

Celebrate Cinco de Mayo with \$5 on 5/5! The first 500 guests who sign up at Guest Services on May 5 between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. will receive \$5 in casino cash.

**POKER PROMOTIONS:**

**WORLD SERIES OF POKER TOURNAMENT**

Qualify daily through June 27 to win a seat in the World Series of Poker! Qualify for the playoffs in June by winning a regularly scheduled tournament in March, April or May.

**THE BIG BOUNTY POKER TOURNAMENT**

Play in The Big Bounty, our newest No Limit Hold’em Tournament every Thursday and Sunday at 7 p.m. and receive an extra \$20 for every player you eliminate! Registration begins at 6:30 pm and is open to everyone, with a total buy-in of \$115.

**DAILY RIVER SHOWDOWN**

Pull up a seat in Oklahoma’s most upscale Poker Room for our Daily River Showdown tournaments starting at 9 a.m. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and is open to everyone, with a total buy-in of just \$30.00.

**LADIES TEXAS HOLD’EM TOURNAMENTS**

Ladies Night Texas Hold’em tournaments start at 7 p.m. every Monday. Registration begins at 6:30 p.m. and is open to all ladies, with a total buy-in of just \$30.00.

**MEN’S NIGHT – THE BIG ONE POKER TOURNAMENT**

The Big One, Creek Nation Casino’s Men’s Night no-limit Texas Hold’em tournament starts at 7 p.m. every Wednesday, with registration beginning at 6:30 p.m. (\$115 total buy-in).

**TEXAS HOLD’EM PROGRESSIVE BAD BEAT JACKPOTS**

Losing Never Felt So Good! Creek Nation Casino’s new Progressive Bad Beat Jackpots consist of three separate progressive jackpots awarded to hands of aces full of jacks losing to a better hand.

**TEXAS HOLD’EM HIGH HANDS**

Good hands are hard to come by, and at Creek Nation Casino, Texas Hold’em high hands pay bonuses 24 hours a day, seven days a week with progressive bonuses on four of a kind, straight flush, and royal flush hands increasing \$100 a day.

**\$15,000 Blackjack Tournament of Champions**

Qualify for the Blackjack Tournament of Champions by logging 150 hours of play in our blackjack pit in the months of April and May. The Championship Tournament will be held on June 30. First place will be awarded \$5,000, second placed will be awarded \$2,000, and third place will be awarded \$1,000. Watch for more details on qualifying tournaments in June as we celebrate our one year anniversary!

DOI to hold consultation meetings

WASHINGTON D.C. — The Department of the Interior’s Office of Indian Gaming Management (OIGM) will hold a series of tribal consultation meetings on the development of proposed regulations to establish standards for implementing Section 20 of IGRA, the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988 (25 USC 2701-2721). The meetings will take place in Unasville Conn., Albuquerque, N.M., Sacramento, Calif., and Minneapolis, Minn., starting on March 30, 2006.

Section 20 provides that federally recognized Indian tribes cannot conduct class II or class III gaming on lands acquired in trust after October 17, 1988, unless one of several exceptions applies. The proposed rule will establish the criteria that will be considered by the Department to determine whether a parcel of land acquired in trust after that date qualifies under any of the exceptions

listed in 25 USC 2719.

The Department will conduct tribal consultation sessions to receive input on the proposed draft regulations on the following dates (all times are local times):

Thursday, March 30, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Mohegan Sun Casino and Resort in Uncasville, Conn.; Wednesday, April 5, 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Albuquerque Convention Center in Albuquerque, N.M.; Tuesday, April 18, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at the Radisson Hotel in Sacramento Calif.; and Thursday, April 20, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Crown Plaza in Minneapolis, Minn.

Comments on the proposed draft regulations also may be mailed or hand delivered to the Office of Indian Gaming Management at 1849 C. Street, N.W., MS-3657-MIB, Washington, D.C. 20240 by April 20, 2006.

CNC Tulsa employs 245 Native Americans

TULSA — Creek Nation Casino - Tulsa provides a positive economic impact for Tulsa and surrounding towns, with over 650 employees.

Proceeds from gaming operations help a variety of Muscogee (Creek) Nation service programs such as housing, education, elderly assistance, and health care.

The casino’s large employee base includes 245 Native Americans, of which 141 are Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizens who proudly serve their own tribe. Of the 245 employed at Tulsa casino 92% are front line employees who play a vital role in the delivery of exceptional customer service to the thousands of patrons who visit the casino daily. The other 8% are members of the management team.

Opened originally as Creek Nation Tulsa Bingo in 1984 along the banks of the Arkansas River, Creek Nation Ca-


sino - Tulsa was the first high-stakes Indian bingo establishment in the state of Oklahoma.

Today Creek Nation Casino - Tulsa offers a unique brand of entertainment, exciting promotions and events, huge cash pay outs and excellent customer service.

With the completion of the expansion and renovation project, the casino will continue to position itself as “Green Country’s” top gaming entertainment venue.

Located at 81st and Riverside in Tulsa, Creek Nation Casino - Tulsa is a great career choice for Native and Non-Native Americans seeking employment.

For more information on current job postings please contact the Human Resources office at 918-299-8518 or visit [www.creeknationcasino.com](http://www.creeknationcasino.com).



**\$100,000 Showers of Cash**

**Sunday - Thursday Through April 27th**

**Pick Your Payday!**

**CREEK NATION CASINO** offers an exciting array of gaming, featuring poker, blackjack and over 1,500 electronic machines where jackpots are won 24 hours a day. Our luxurious Poker Room hosts high stakes tournaments seven days a week. In the blackjack pit we also offer exciting games such as 3 Card Poker, 4 Card Poker, Ultimate Texas Hold'em and Crazy 4. Our newly expanded and renovated casino features a prestigious High Stakes Room, and a non-smoking area for all types of gaming. By combining excellent customer service, unique promotions, and huge cash payouts, we continue to be the gaming destination to visit in the Tulsa area.

**South Tulsa • 81st & Riverside**  
[www.creeknationcasino.com](http://www.creeknationcasino.com)

Creek Nation Casino supports responsible gaming. If you think you have a gambling problem, please call 1-800-522-4700. This facility is regulated by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Office of Public Gaming.



Sapulpa restaurant expands franchise to Okmulgee

LaMargarita’s-Okmulgee, Ok. OKMUGEE-Heading right into Okmulgee on US hwy 75 from a north-erly direction, one can’t help but see the Best Western Motel. The lodging busi-ness has been there for quite a while and is almost become a landmark and right inside one will find a new restau-rant to accompany it-LaMargarita’s Mexican restaurant.

Now you don’t have to check into the motel to enjoy the food that owner Rick and Ramona Olmos and his crew put together. The Olmos have brought their Mexican food empire from Sapulpa to Bixby to Okmulgee. The Olmos fam-ily are natural entrepreneurs and like all committed businessmen, testing the wa-ters is a common philosophy, finding the right demographics and the right base to support it. They moved from Chicago and were involved with other businesses including construction. But Rick and Ramona, who are originally from Mexico City always had a desire to open a restaurant with good mexican food. After the move to Oklahoma, the Olmos found northeasern Oklahoma to be the right move.

“LaMargarita’s actually started out in downtown Sapulpa,” says Jenni-fer Wearstler, who manages the Okmulgee restaurant. “They (Rick and Ramona) closed the one in downtown Sapulpa to open one in Bixby.” Seems the Olmos were finding a lot of their customers were coming from the Bixby area, so a move to Bixby was a natural progression.

After finding the customer base was strong in Bixby, the Olmos found that people were still coming from the Sapulpa area. Finally an offer to acquire a building in Sapulpa was just too good to pass up. At first the couple worried that the Bixby customers would lose in-terest, but that was not the case. The faithful continued to come. The Olmos found that the fan contingency was con-tinue to grow, far beyond just the Sapulpa and Bixby areas. The Olmos were meeting with folks as they dined and found out a great portion of them were traveling from the south, especially around the Okmulgee and Henryetta areas. The moved also seemed logical because the Olmos family resides in the Duck Creek area which is roughly the distance between Sapulpa and Okmulgee. The Okmulgee restaurant has been opened for two weeks now,

people will find the conventional menu But the unique difference will be the and now at 3499 North Wood in



items that are associated with a mexican restaurant. Enchiladas, burritos, quesadillas, nachos, and chimichangas. taste that is uniquely the flavor of LaMargarita’s. LaMargarita is located at 1215 New Sapulpa road in Sapulpa Okmulgee. Hours are Monday through Saturday from 11a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sun-days from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Food Review-Jason Salsman

The Food Section of the Muscogee Nation News has finally done it. After months of critiquing and examining a wide variety of culinary establishments in the region, it was high time that we turned our attention to Mexican food. We, that is my culinary partner in crime Gerald Wofford and myself, decided to try out La Margarita, an all-new Tex-Mex restaurant on the outside of Okmulgee heading north on Highway 75. I’ve always loved the spicy, flavor-ful offerings of Mexican cuisine definitely has to be done right. I mean come on, too much of this or too little of that can make a big difference. “I said quesadillas, not tacquito!” If you catch yourself in a bad Mexican restaurant, you might not even want to finish your meal. It’s time like these, the idea of buying generic Mexican food in your grocer’s freezer doesn’t seem to be such a bad idea. Thankfully, this is not the case at La Margarita. The first item brought to our table was what many believe to be the make or break portion of all Mexican eateries; the chips and salsa. Drum roll-mariachi style, please. The chips and salsa at La Mararita are very good. So good in fact that I nearly ruined my appetite be-fore the main course got there. Gerald was busy interviewing the manager, so that left extra time for me to really inves-tigate the standard Mexican apetzizers,

but I did save a little for Gerald. So if you have any apprehension about going there because of the appetizers, let me put you at ease, they are great.

I ordered the enchiladas, partly be-cause I would say that is the most popular item on the menu. Gerald ordered the chicken enchiladas, while I stuck with good

very good. The dinner had an authentic taste to it, one that resides south of Henryetta-way south, like past the Rio Grande. The taste was one you don’t get at any Mexi-can restaurant. One of the perks to doing this gig is to listen to Gerald as he conducts an interview with the managers, waitresses, or other customers. One gets a chance to learn a little bit on how things work behind the scenes. Most of the time the story behind the food can be a story all to itself. I learned that the owners were born and raised in Mexico many years before getting this green cards and com-ing to the states. With all the recent news about immigration laws and citizenship, take it from a member of a tribe that deals with citizenship every day. We have a lot to be grateful for from our friends just south of the border. So the authentic taste did not surprise me and I knew that their claims of having “real” Mexican food was legit right from the first taste. And if you happen to stop in, give the fried ice cream a try, it compliments the meal very well. Not that it needs any help. **Rating System- Four and a half out of Five Stars.**



Of course any good restaurant has to follow up with delicious entrees and this one did just that.

old American beef in my enchiladas. Put that with some tasty rice and beans and mister, you’re going to town, they were all